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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM  
NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30AM

A Message From Pastor Jay

John 14:15-21 is part of the farewell discourse of Jesus to the disciples. Since Sunday is Mother's Day, our text contains a wonderful motherly promise of Jesus: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you". He will fulfill this promise through the Spirit - the Advocate; the Comforter - the *Paraclete* in Greek - the One called alongside to help. Group du Jour provides music; Sandy is soloist with David providing sign language; Brit is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy share a Mother's Day message with the children.

**MOTHER'S DAY**

We often forget the radical roots of Mother's Day. Far from being an intimate celebration of family life, Mother's Day had its origin in work for justice and peace. It all started in the 1850s, when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination, according to historian Katharine Antolini of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The groups also tended wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865.

In the postwar years Jarvis and other women organized Mother's Friendship Day picnics and other events as pacifist strategies to unite former foes. Julia Ward Howe, for one—best known as the composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"—issued a widely read "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, calling for women to take an active political role in promoting peace.

Around the same time, Jarvis had initiated a Mother's Friendship Day for Union and Confederate loyalists across her state. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day—and who would spend most of her later life fighting the limitation and sentimentality of what it had become. (Ann L. Hanson, UCC Justice and Witness Ministries)

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## They're Back!

**Our thanks to Ed Znetko - with help from David Tyrrell & Tom Macy - for reinstalling our doors!**

**(The severe wind in early March brought them down).**

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

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## PICTURE DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATION

**We are taking photos for our directory - every Sunday after church in Perkins Hall from Easter through first Sunday in May**

### **AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

- After-church fellowship will honor all having birthdays in a given month on the third Sunday of the month with a cake and gluten-free cupcakes.
- July 2 and Sept 24 we will host an ice cream social after church with lactose free options, sherbet and all the trimmings for making sundaes.
- We plan congregation involved pot lucks for the fifth Sunday of each month that has one - July 30, Oct 29 and Dec 31.
- Dec 17, birthday celebration Sunday, we plan a Christmas cookie share and exchange involving whole congregation.

The rest of the time will remain as it is with congregants signing up to provide something substantial for sharing and the church providing salty snacks, cookies and fruit as needed.

**WOMANSONG WILL BE OUR MUSICAL GUESTS DURING WORSHIP ON MAY 21**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY – MAY 28 – EL PASO TEAM TO PRESENT!**

**KNIT WITS GROUP MEETS THURSDAY MAY 25 AT 1PM IN THE CHURCH OFFICE  
CONFERENCE ROOM**



**CHURCH PAINTING ON DISPLAY IN PERKINS HALL**

It's an Original Pastel 18 x 24, painted by Jenny Willigrod from Fountain Hills, AZ.

It's a gift to the church from Coco Lanigan, David Pifer, Sandy and Ed Znetko.

Cards will be available for purchase (\$2.00 per card) by the congregation with proceeds going to the church. (Coco Lanigan)

**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](mailto:bafwriter@gmail.com), our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at [FCCprescott@gmail.com](mailto:FCCprescott@gmail.com).

**SAVE THE DATE  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF JULY 17**

**Registration for our Vacation Bible School is Now Open!**

**Dates:** July 17-21, 2023

**Times:** 9:00 to 3:00

**Location:** First Congregational Church: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

**Cost:** Free!

**Age Range:** Potty-trained Preschoolers through Sixth Graders

**Description:** During our morning session, kids will engage in our VBS curriculum with our beloved Sunday School teachers, Ms. Jeni and Ms. Audra! Our curriculum is entitled "Hero Hotline". The goal of this VBS is to help children learn to work together and share their gifts as they answer God's call on their lives as they strive to bring peace and build each other up in this world. There will be art and music components and some outdoor activities as well. The morning session will be followed by a lunch break. Please bring a bag lunch and water each day.

Has that big and wonderful stage in Perkins Hall been calling out to you? It is just waiting to be brought back to life! Our afternoon session will give the kids a chance to shine on the stage by learning and rehearsing a play throughout the week, which will culminate in a performance on Friday. This performance will be open to the public and will give our kids the chance to learn some acting skills and perform in front of an audience. Andrew Greenwald and Britt Flores will be working together to create the play.

**Registration:** To register, please contact our Education Ministry Cabinet Member, Morgan Greenwald at [morgan.greenwald@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.greenwald@gmail.com). Feel free to contact Morgan (570-660-2227) with any questions. Our maximum number of participants will be 16, so sign up soon to secure your spot!

**Volunteers:** If you are interested in volunteering to help with our VBS program, thank you! Please contact Morgan soon as well so that we can make sure to complete the necessary background checks.

### PASS - PRESCOTT AREA SHELTER SERVICES

PASS, our local women's shelter, serves as a place for women and children experiencing homelessness. The third Wednesday of every month our church provides dinner for the guests at the shelter. Meal items are brought to the church parking lot at 5:00 pm and then taken by one of our members to the shelter. Carolyn Christians has taken over this role from Patty Gard. We need new members to sign up to help each month. The sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.



THANKS TO JULIE PINDZOLA AND THE INTERFAITH CLIMATE ACTION TEAM FOR THE EARTH DAY SERVICE IN OUR SANCTUARY ON APRIL 27! THE INTERFAITH CHOIR WAS LARGE AND OUTSTANDING!



#### CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 14 - MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 21 - WOMANSONG MUSICAL GUESTS

MAY 28 - PENTECOST SUNDAY - THE SWC EL PASO ATTENDEES PRESENT

JUNE 25 - OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

JULY 19 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY

May 14, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

#### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "With Trumpets and Horns"--G. F. Handel

Mark Achuff

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place "

Group du Jour

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

(Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

Prayer of Invocation

Brit Flores

Lord Jesus, who wishes to gather your people as a mother hen gathers together her chicks, we offer to you our worship. Accept our gratitude for all who mother, bless all who mother, and give all mothers your comfort and strength. We pray for justice and equality for women around the world. For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world; for the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life; for women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others; for women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ; for the caregivers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers; for moms, in their wide variety and many forms. And help all of us to be your family on earth, as we shall be in Heaven. **Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

New Century Hymnal #467

Call to Worship

Brit Flores

One: All who gather here are sons or daughters.

**All: We praise God for the women who gave us life.**

One: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

**All: We give God thanks and praise.**

One: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

**All: We pray for peace.**

One: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

**All: We pray for healing.**

One: For mothers who have died,

**All: We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.**

One: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

**All: We weep with those with broken hearts.**

One: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

**All: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.**

One: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

**All: We pray for wisdom and patience.**

One: For grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

**All: We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.**

One: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for an adoptive process to be fulfilled.

**All: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.**

One: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

**All: We give you thanks, O God.**

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

Brit Flores

\*Hymn: "O God in Whom All Life Begins"

New Century Hymnal #401

Sermon: "I Will Not Leave You Orphaned; I Am Coming to You"

Pastor Jay

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Solo: "Be Now My Vision" arr. Larry More; Sandy Znetko with David Wolf Signing;  
Mark Achuff

### Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

God, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth. We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

### Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Eloquence"--Lani Smith

Mark Achuff

\*Doxology (Tune: Tallis' Canon)

Mark Achuff

**Praise God who gives all blessings birth; praise God all creatures on the earth; Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free: one holy God in persons three.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Brit Flores

**O God, receive these gifts, bless them and multiply them, that they may strengthen and unify the work of your Church here and around the Earth you love. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "I Look to You in Every Need"

New Century Hymnal #463

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "Fugue in F Major"--J. S. Bach

Mark Achuff

## MAY MISSION NEWS

**MONTHLY FOCUS:** Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project/program. For the month of May, our featured program is **Frontera de Cristo (FdC)**.

**Frontera de Cristo** is an ecumenical border ministry in Agua Prieta, Mexico—across the border from Douglas, AZ working in partnership with several Agua Prieta churches and local social service organizations to help meet the needs of migrants arriving at the border. **Frontera de Cristo** provides shelter, counseling, food/clothing assistance, education classes, and job training for migrants choosing to remain in Mexico.

**Frontera de Cristo** works to build relationships and understanding across borders.  
From their website (<https://fronteradecristo.org>):

“People often see borders as nothing more than division, but at Frontera de Cristo we see a place of encounter...By demonstrating gospel values in all that we do, Frontera de Cristo seeks to build relationships that demonstrate God’s will, and build bridges rather than walls...We offer shelter, resources, education, emotional support, medical care, and new solutions. Our hope is that everyone we meet knows they are made in God’s image, they are worthy of respect, and they are welcome here.”

Donations can be made by making your check payable to the church with the memo: **FdC**.

Mission donations which do not specify a particular project will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

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](mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com).*

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## TREASURER REPORT

**A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY**

**APRIL 2023**

Income is \$60,959  
Expenses are \$72,845  
Expenses exceed income by \$11,886

To-date, Reserve Funds of \$4,131 have been spent to offset some of the deficit.

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# SUPPORT THE CHURCH

Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://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  
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