

First Congregational Church

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

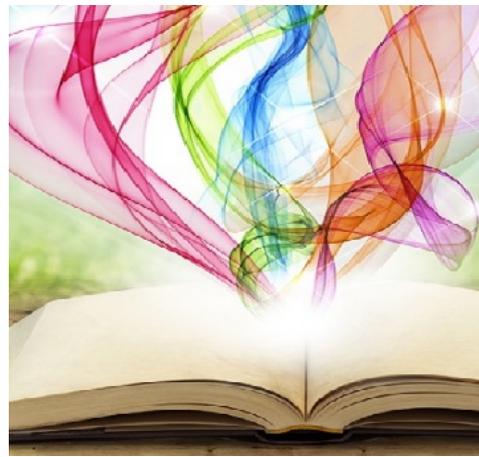
A LETTER FROM PASTOR JAY

Greetings Everyone,

A few items to share with you this week:

1. The floor in Perkins Hall are being refinished this week. The timing is perfect as all activities are cancelled due to the virus. The floor will be a wonderful symbol of resurrection when we can return to worship. Our thanks to David, Tom, and Bill for being our presence and eyes on the project.
2. We decided to apply for the SBA Payment Projection Program - this is money that can be used for salaries and utilities for the next three months. If used in this way, it becomes a grant instead of a loan. Without any fanfare, all of the sudden a deposit of \$24,250 appeared in our account Friday! Our thanks to our treasurer Julie McCurdy for doing all the advanced paperwork required!
3. I hope you are viewing the worship services on our website each week. Thanks to all who are providing music, and thanks for Jim handling the videos. I have been watching a lot of other church services on their websites and Facebook pages, and I think our small church is measuring up pretty good, even if I do say so myself :)
4. On this Monday, as president of the board of CCJ, I am proud to announce that our lodges are having a grand opening today (virtually). Three men and one woman will move into fully furnished houses. Each will have their own entrance door to their room from the outside. Dorn Homes and many other sub-contractors helped make it happen.
5. Our governor should be making a decision this week about what Arizona will do regarding easing virus restrictions. Our church conference will also be providing guidance. As was the case in Georgia, churches will be slow to immediately turn the open switch on. Most likely, we will follow the guidance of the Southwest Conference of the UCC and our city guidelines. But as one church leader in Georgia put it, our first objective will be "to do no harm."
6. Our church Cabinet agreed with my thought that I should go ahead with my scheduled sabbatical for June, July, and August (most UCC pastor/church contracts state a sabbatical is granted for three months after every five years of service). Since things are already disrupted, probably better to do it now than after we open back up. Our retired clergy will be covering the summer months. More details on that schedule are forthcoming. I look forward to the day when I will not preach to an empty room!
7. Prescott Station restaurant continues to need our support. Thanks to all who are ordering curbside take-out. Our Church Foundation has given them several months of rent relief to support them during this closure.
8. On a lighter note, our David has new teeth! I wish you could see his smile. I better not mention who helped him get this dental work without prior approval, but our thanks to his benefactors!
9. Life is tough right now - give grace to yourself and others. Stay safe. Let's pray for each other.

God be with you, Jay



Prescott Community Cupboard



Special thanks to the FCC volunteers who served as packers at the Prescott Community Cupboard during the week of March 23rd.

During this pandemic, we are especially grateful to those who are willing to don masks and gloves to bag groceries for the needy: Sonja & John Wilson, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Patty Lantrip & Sue Hodge-Parker, and Dave Foote.

MISSION NEWS: MIGRANT MINISTRIES



Mission Outreach Update Our mission emphasis for May is Migrant Ministries. Contributions will support two different migrant ministries.

1. One is the outreach to assist migrants in the Phoenix area who are awaiting adjudication of their case in Federal Court. There is a large ICE detention center in the Phoenix area, housing upwards of 300 migrants. There are reports of the Corona Virus effecting several detainees. But, there has been no official release of data.
2. Our second migrant project is the Frontera de Cristo in Aqua Prieta, Mexico (across the border from Douglas, AZ). This ministry helps to shelter, counsel, feed and clothe migrants being detained on the Mexican side of the border. Checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, "Migrant Ministries."

Thanks to our faithful volunteers, we are continuing to provide a monthly hot meal to the PASS Women's Shelter. With a full complement of volunteers in place, we will once again be providing a meal this month. Questions can be directed to our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard.

Our Mission Outreach team is Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Linda Moore, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson. As always, thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2].

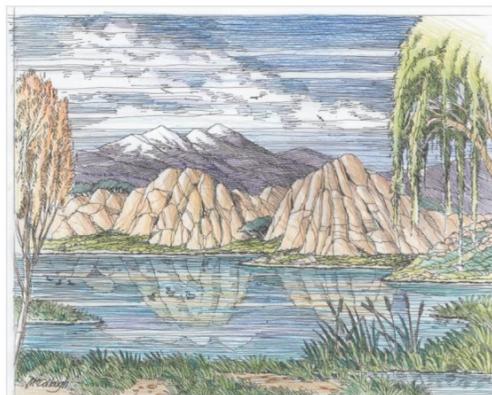
PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

Pastor Jay will continue with his planned 2020 sabbatical over the summer months. The sabbatical committee has prepared a brochure to share information about his sabbatical. It will also be helpful in answering your questions about how church will operate in his absence.

A digital copy of the brochure is available on the Church website, in the Resources area, <http://www.fccprescott.org/sabbatical>.

Paper copies of the brochure will be available; please call the church office to get a copy mailed to you. Peace, Staci

A TIME TO SLOW DOWN FOR REFLECTION



PAPER COPY

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: www.fccprescott.org and look for the tab on the front page

Do you want more or different newsletter content?

Send me your quarantine photos, ideas, stories or jokes.

- 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 mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Mail a check out to the church and mail it to 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, however, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

First Congregational Church Prescott,
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BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kathy Stephens 05/20
Deana & Susan Wilson 05/27

BIRTHDAYS

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

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