# First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller May 20, 2022

A Message From Pastor Jay
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30 am 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:**

WOMANSONG WILL JOIN US SUNDAY TO PROVIDE MUSIC

Womansong is an a cappella singing group that has been with us on occasion through the years. We welcome them Sunday as we consider a glimpse of heaven on the other side of Easter (Revelation 21-22). Bill is liturgist. JJ & Ziggy report from heaven.

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** 

Let us know if you want to be added to the Zoom invitation

Watch Worship Services Here

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEEDED: CHURCH SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS** 

We really would like to have one or two more people to help with church security.

Of course, it would be great if you (male or female) had/have military, law enforcement or security experience but, certainly NOT necessary. If interested, please contact Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276, mgates716@gmail.com.

#### **NEEDED: VOLUNTEER OFFICE HELP – FLEXIBLE HOURS**

Help needed to learn how to produce the Sunday bulletin, create and post the newsletter on Constant Contact, and post items to our webpage. Your service will be needed during pastor vacations and emergency situations.

#### **NEEDED: GREETERS AND HOSPITALITY HOSTS**

A new schedule of dates and 'empty' spaces are ready for all of you who would enjoy serving as a GREETER or HOSPITALITY HOST. The sign up sheet through May is still in Perkins Hall and we only have two couples who have signed up for May dates (the Greenwalds and Znekos). So check your schedules and see if you can squeeze a date in convenient for you. The new sign up sheet will be there on Sunday. Thank you.

New Members will be received soon. Let Pastor Jay know if you are interested in joining the church

#### **BACK AGAIN!**

Join a small group viewing and discussing more sessions in the LIVING THE QUESTIONS series.

Starting Sunday May 8.

When : 9:30 a.m.

Where: the Maggie Room downstairs.

Topics: various new ones.

No previous experience required

## CARING FOR CREATION

ACTION ALERT from the Interfaith Climate Action Team(ICAT)

ICAT, affiliated with the Northern Arizona Climate
Change Alliance, is a grassroots, non-partisan team,
representing different faith traditions and communities in
the Prescott area. Its purpose is to amplify the voice of
the faith community and encourage proactive civic
engagement on the climate crisis. ICAT pursues this
mission through networking, sharing and education
within the faith community of our region. We currently

have 14 members, representing 8 different faith communities. This April 24 is Earth Care Sunday in the Quad Cities area. We encourage you to raise awareness within your faith community of the moral and spiritual response for care of the Earth in your worship services on that Sunday. It's all about stewardship of the Earth its peoples, creatures and resources. We need to protect and restore the Earth for future generations NOW. We at ICAT are available with specific resources that your faith community may find useful. We invite you to learn more about the Interfaith Climate Action Team and consider appointing a representative to serve on ICAT. We stand ready to provide you more information on this important initiative. Let's use our faith traditions as a common bond to engage in this conversation and work. ICAT meets on the second Wednesday at 3:30 pm via ZOOM. For further assistance on Earth Care Sunday on April 24, please contact Mary Steenhoek at marysteenhoek@gmail.com For additional information on joining the Interfaith Climate Team, please ccontact Patrick Grady at patrickgrady70@gmail.com

### **Musical Guests Sunday - Womansong**

Office Open by Appointment - Call Pastor Jay 928-899-9066

## 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 Aqua 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 (<u>fronteradecristo.org</u>): "People often see borders as nothing more than division, but at Frontera de Cristo we see a

place of encounter. Discerning God's will for us, we serve migrants and community members on both sides of the border." 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. To date in 2022, mission disbursements have been made to: Prescott Community Cupboard (\$545); Prescott Area Shelter Services (\$755); and Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (\$350). Collections for One Great Hour of Sharing and the Southwest Conference's special collection for Ukraine Humanitarian Relief will be disbursed and reported shortly.

As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

In May, the Mission Outreach ministry collected and donated \$335 to UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing (an annual national special offering with donations supporting denominational programs of Health, Education, Agriculture, Disaster Relief, and Refugee Camp initiatives) and \$3,735 (!) to the Southwest Conference's special Ukraine Humanitarian Relief fund.

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 <a href="mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com">beckybryant2255@gmail.com</a>.

## 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.

The Saturdays in May, we will study the religion of Islam

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2022

10:30

a.m.

<sup>\*</sup>Those who are able may stand

The American Protestant custom of observing Rural Life Sunday on the Sixth Sunday of Easter has its roots in the ancient custom of "Rogation Days"—from the Latin word **rogare** "to ask" (In modern day English we find the root in the word "interrogation"). In the days between Easter 6 and Ascension Thursday May 26, Christians in farming communities would "ask a blessing" on their fields, their seeds, their farm animals and their own labor, that their planting would flourish, and result in a good harvest. It was a joyful, hopeful time of community prayer for the land.

Prelude: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" by Jay Althouse Womansong

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy (Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

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

Gathering Music: "How Can I Keep From Singing?" by Judith Herrington Womansong

**Prayer of Invocation** 

Bill Bryant

Come, God of Creation, light our path as we gather today. Open the gates of our minds and our hearts that your Word may penetrate to the depth of our being. Lead us to the river of the water of life and refresh us for the work you have set for us. Sit us down under the tree of life. And let us rejoice in the diversity of its fruit and witness to the healing of nations. Show us your glory, Sovereign One as we come to worship you. Amen.

The Call to Worship

Bill Bryant

One: Outside the city gate a farmer rises early so that there will be eggs and bacon and cereal and milk on our tables. As we gather today to give you thanks, **Many: We ask a blessing on the farmer.** 

One: Outside the city gate a resort owner throws open the windows and a housekeeper changes the bed so that we might rest in the shade of the tree which grows beside living waters. As we gather today to give you thanks, Many: We ask a blessing on the resort owner and the housekeeper.

One: Outside the city gate a road crew patches over the wear of winter so that we will be safe as we travel past field and forest and stream. As we gather today to give you thanks,

Many: We ask a blessing on the road crew.

One: Outside the city gate a migrant worker bends over a field so that our bodies will be nourished with nutrient rich food from the soil of the earth. As we gather today to give you thanks,

Many: We ask a blessing on the migrant worker.

One: On this Sabbath day we honor those outside the gate by river, field, mountain, forest and ocean – and fire. In this place of prayer, we give thanks, O God of All Creation.

Many: And we ask a blessing on all who care for your Creation.

\*Hymn: "Shall We Gather at the River"

New Century Hymnal #597

#### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading: Revelation 21:1-4, 9-27; 22:1-5 Pastor Jay

\*Hymn: "Some Glad Morning" New Century Hymnal #595

Sermon: "Glimpses of Heaven" Pastor Jay

#### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Anthem: "The Storm is Passing Over" by Willie James Ellebie Womansong

A Litany of Intercession New Century Hymnal #878

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Bright Morning Stars Are Rising" by Paul Siskind Womansong

\*Easter Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth) Brian Moore
Let trumpets sound and voices sing! Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death and given life eternal breath.

\*Prayer of Dedication

Bill Bryant

We come before you again to ask a blessing, God of Grace, not only on seed and soil but on our tithes and offerings. Bless and multiply these gifts that your abundance might be recognized in this place and beyond its gate. May the fruits of our labors strengthen your church and truly be for the healing of the nations. Amen

\*Hymn: "I Want to Be Ready"

New Century Hymnal #616

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Sending Music: "We Shall Be Known" by Karisha Longaker of MaMuse Womansong

Income as of the end of April is \$56,896. This is 38% of the income budget. Expenses to-date are \$50,084. This is 32% of the expense budget. Income exceeds expenses by \$6,812.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:30am Nursery & Sunday School 10:30am

#### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

May 22 Womansong Singing in Worship May 23 Church Cabinet Meeting 5:30pm May 30 Memorial Day June 5 Pentecost Sunday June 12 Trinity Sunday June 19 Father's Day

#### The Church of Firsts

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the <a href="church of firsts">church of firsts</a>, 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



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