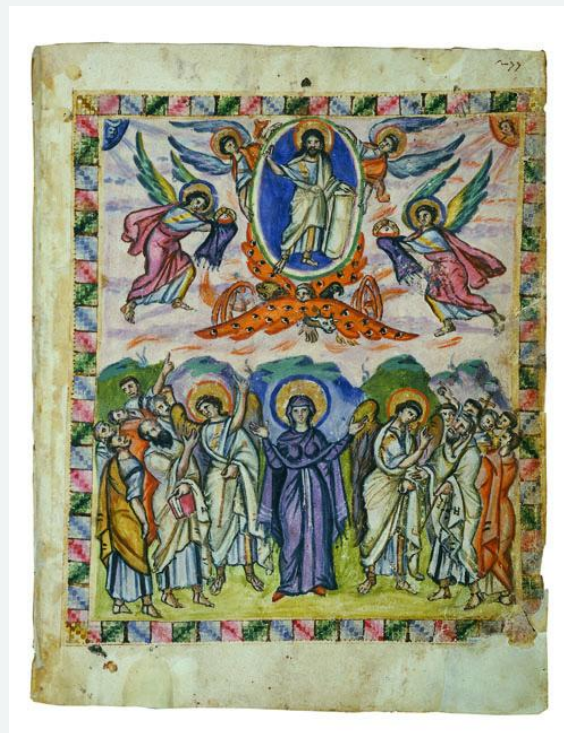


SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM
NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30AM
WOMANSONG WILL BE OUR MUSICAL GUESTS

A Message From Pastor Jay

Since May 18 is Ascension Day, we will look at the account of the ascension of Jesus in Acts 1. Most churches do not pay much attention to it. The calendar date is always 40 days after Easter - always on a Thursday - and is not given special Sunday recognition. The sermon is entitled "the ascension don't get no attention." Back by popular demand from 2017 are Lil' Will and Da Gates, doing a rap on "the ascension don't get no attention, but it's the prescription for redemption." Womansong provides music; Brian is organist; and Ralph is liturgist.

The ascension did get attention in the early church and its artwork. Below is an artistic depiction for the 6th Century.



The Gospel was completed in 586 at Monastery of St. John of Zagba (Syriac: ■■■■ ■■■■, *Bēt Zaḡbā*), which, although traditionally thought to have been in Northern Mesopotamia, is now thought to have been in the hinterland between [Antioch](#) and [Apamea](#) in modern [Syria](#). It was signed by its scribe, Rabbula (■■■■■, *Rabbulā*) about whom nothing else is known. In their current condition the folios are 34 cm (13.4 in) by 27 cm

(10.6 in). Their original size is unknown because they were trimmed during previous rebindings. The text is written in black or dark brown ink in two columns of a variable number of lines. There are footnotes written in red ink at the bottom of many of the columns. The text is the [Peshitta](#) version of the [Syriac](#) translation of the Gospels. (Wikipedia)



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](#)

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!
THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO WEAR RED**

**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, our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at 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!

THERE ARE STILL OPENINGS FOR VBS CHILDREN! LET MORGAN KNOW OF POSSIBLE ATTENDEES

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. 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.

JJ AND ZIGGY WERE FOUND TO BE LISTENING IN TO THE SPANISH CLASS
IN PERKINS HALL - THIS EXPLAINED THEIR ABILITY TO SPEAK SPANISH
DURING A RECENT CHILDREN'S TIME



CHURCH CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ASCENSION DAY MAY 18

May 21, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Elijah Rock" traditional spiritual, arr. Jester Hairston

Womansong

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "Wana Baraka" traditional Kenyan folk song, arr. Shawn Kirchner
Womansong

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

Call to Worship (*from Ephesians 1:15-23*) Ralph Mora
(*most wording from The Message by the Rev. Dr. Eugene Peterson*)

L: Christ shows us who we are and what our purpose is.

P: In fact, Christ had his eye on us long before we heard his call.

L: When we fell in love with him, we found ourselves home free: signed, sealed and delivered by his Spirit!

P: For the Spirit is God's guarantee that God's realm will come.

L: Now we need only to know Christ personally and to see what he calls us to do.

P: For he empowers a glorious life: endless energy, boundless strength!

L: And all this power issues from Christ!

P: For God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven.

L: He runs the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule!

P: And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything.

L: At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. For the church is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church.

P: The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

All: Alleluia! Let us worship God in Christ!

*Hymn: "Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise" (alt. tune- Llanfair) New Century Hymnal #260

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination Ralph Mora
Still-speaking God, we have come here today for many reasons, each with our own story. May these reasons and stories be immersed in your Sacred Story, finding ourselves caught up in the drama and beauty of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry. Through your Holy Spirit enable us to move boldly into the future and to fulfill the hope of love that Jesus taught. Speak to us through the Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

Bible Reading: Acts 1:1-11 Ralph Mora

Sermon: "The Ascension Gets No Attention" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Hope Lingers On" Lissa Schneckenburger, arr. Andrea Ramsey Womansong

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Ubi Caritas" Ola Gjelo Womansong

*Doxology (Tune: Tallis' Canon)

Brian Moore

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

Ralph Mora

May these gifts, O God, become action and intention, fulfilling Christ's commandment to love. Amen.

*Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

New Century Hymnal #4

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Blessings of Love" Sufi Chant

Womansong

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.

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.

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 scheduled check amount.

Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301



United
Church of
Christ

T: 928-445-4555
EMAIL: fccprescott@gmail.com



First Congregational Church Prescott, UCC | 216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

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