

A Message From Pastor Jay

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20
ESTIMATES OF 2023 GIVING WILL BE RECEIVED DURING WORSHIP
THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A CHURCH BUDGET FOR
2023

IF YOU ARE PART OF OUR ONLINE CHURCH FAMILY OR A FRIEND OF THE
CHURCH, YOU MAY SHARE WITH US YOUR ESTIMATE OF GIVING FOR 2023
BY MAILING IT TO:

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
216 EAST GURLEY STREET
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301

Looking ahead, we face the same headwinds that all churches are dealing with – an uncertain COVID and flu winter; the costs of most everything rising from inflation; a predicted economic downturn as the Fed works on reducing inflation; and around fifty percent less worship attendance after COVID re-opening.

The good news for our church includes having no debt and a church Foundation to help, if needed. Some other positive items for us include a large number of new members and attendees post-COVID lockdown, almost making us a new congregation in many ways, and more children attending than we have had in a long time. We made tough decisions at the start of COVID to significantly reduce our budget and return to a volunteer operating model. It has served us well through the last two years. As stewards of our building, we have the opportunity to host recovery groups once again or offer a non-profit organization space in our basement. We need your estimates of giving for 2023 to help us decide what is possible. Thank you for your support during 2022! Pastor Jay

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the church year, called "Reign of Christ Sunday." In our text from Luke 23:33-43, we find our King hanging on a cross, more concerned with saving others than saving himself, and offering forgiveness and paradise to his cross-hanging neighbor. Quite the contrast to our recent political season, where candidates were willing to win at all

costs, spreading lies and distrust. As we enter Thanksgiving week, I am grateful to abide in the reign of Christ. Linda, Brian, and Carole Sue provide music; Linda is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy share their gratitude.

JOIN TOM AS THE CHURCH IS DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, AT 9AM

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.

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vision 2023: Share your ideas for our Congregation:
Place your ideas in the offering plate on Sundays
Friday brown-bag lunch (BYO) today at noon for a visioning
discussion.**

**TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS
SEASON:**

**FRIDAY ADVENT FELLOWSHIP – NOON - DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 -
PERKINS HALL**

SUNDAY ADVENT ZOOM FELLOWSHIP – DEC. 4, 11, 18 – 8:45AM

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 11 DURING THE WORSHIP
SERVICE - 10 MINUTES OR SO**

**TWO DONATION BOXES ARE ALWAYS PRESENT AT THE FRONT OF THE
SANCTUARY FOR THE COMMUNITY CUPBOARD AND DISCOVERY
GARDENS PRESCHOOL**

Musical Guests Sunday - Linda, Carole Sue, and Brian

The Office Is Open Most Mornings and By
Appointment. Call Prior To Visiting for Confirmation: Pastor

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Each month throughout the year, our mission outreach team identifies particular mission projects/programs to which we might choose to donate.

As the holiday season approaches, this month our focus turns to the **Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) AND Yavapai Food Bank**.

CCJ has transitioned from primarily being an emergency shelter for those who are homeless to now helping clients find permanent affordable housing. **CCJ** has helped dozens of clients into mobile homes, cottage homes, apartments and lodge style facilities. Additionally, they work with other agencies to help provide rental assistance and programs for job opportunities.

The **Yavapai Food Bank (YFB)** provides food boxes for approximately 400 families weekly. Serving the area since 1992, **Yavapai Food Bank** is the largest food bank in our county, distributing tons of food each year to thousands of families and individuals living in poverty.

If you would like to donate to either project, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo of **CCJ** or **YFB**. Mission donations which do not specify a particular project will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

Recent mission disbursements have been made to: Ukraine Relief (\$2,020); St Luke Ebony Christian Church (\$1,700); Prescott College's Freedom Education Fund (\$350); and UCC's Neighbors in Need (\$505).

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.

CHURCH FOUNDATION

The Foundation was formed as a separate non-profit Corporation by the Church back in 1993 as a way to focus management of large donations and gifts for the benefit of the Church. Currently the Foundation manages financial assets and owns the building leased by our new tenant, Red, White and Brew. The majority of the financial assets are invested with United Church Funds in Balanced Mutual Funds. The funds are a result of Endowments and Memorial Gifts to the Foundation from past members of our Church or their families. The restaurant building was also a gift to the Foundation. In many cases the gifts list how the donors wanted the monies to be used. Some examples are Christian education needs of the children, the youth, and young families of the Congregation and for capital needs of the Church. The Foundation By-Laws explain how the Foundation Board is to act in managing the funds for the benefit of the Church. When a need arises, typically the Church Cabinet will make a written request for funds and the Foundation Board will act on that request. The Board does not look to micro-manage Church finances, but it needs to determine which fund may be the most appropriate fund to provide the funding request. The Board also is responsible for taking a long-term view of the use and sustainability of the endowments for the future benefits of the Church. Substantial donations to the Foundation can be complex financial transactions involving donor taxes, restrictions on the use of the donations by the Foundation and may take several different legal forms. The United Church Funds has several very good brochures and videos on their web site that give good explanations of the process and choices that can be used to donate to the Foundation – ucfunds.org

SUNDAY BULLETIN

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 20, 2022

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: “We Gather Together” arr. by Frances Callahan

The Ringing Bells

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

A Time for Children of All Ages (*Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*) – JJ & Ziggy
(Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children’s time)

Gather Song: “Thank You, Lord” by Diane Davis

Welcome of New Members: Teresa Mora & Chris Tompkins Co-Moderator Linda Mast

*Hymn: "Come, O Thankful People Come"

New Century Hymnal #422

Responsive Call to Worship

L: Jesus announced the coming of God's Realm and its hidden presence in the world.

P: He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first.

L: Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant.

P: No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life here.

L: We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,

P: but in the coming and hidden presence of God's Reign.

L: Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that realm:

P: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross; to walk by faith, not by sight; to hope for what we have not seen.

L: With faith to face our challenges, with love that casts out fear, with hope to trust tomorrow, we accept this day as the gift it is - a reason for rejoicing.

The realm of Christ is coming because:

Somewhere - someone is kind when others are unkind,

Somewhere - someone shares with another in need,

Somewhere - someone refuses to hate, while others hate,

Somewhere - someone is patient - and waits in love,

Somewhere - someone returns good for evil,

Somewhere - someone serves another, in love,

Somewhere - someone is calm in a storm,

Somewhere - someone is loving everybody.

And we glimpse the Reign of Christ.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 23:33-43

*Hymn: "Great Is Your Faithfulness"

New Century Hymnal #423

Sermon: "Gratitude for Our King"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Special Music: "What Wondrous Love"

Linda Foote, the 1-der-woman bell choir

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Stewardship Minute

Morgan Greenwald

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Simple Gifts" Early American Shaker Song Carole Sue, Piano; Brian, Organ

Let earth and heaven's saints proclaim; the pow'r and might of God's great Name; Let us exalt on bended knee; now and throughout eternity. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

We're grateful for your invitation to give faithfully and abundantly, God. We ask that you extend your blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation. May it be so! Amen.

*Hymn: "Give Thanks to the Lord"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #198

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "I was Glad" by John Bell

Brian Moore

TREASURER REPORT

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

Income vs Expense:

Income is \$131,449

Expenses are \$128,731

Net INCOME is \$2,717

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

STEWARDSHIP

Let us enter stewardship time prayerfully and with grateful hearts. Loving God, thank you for this opportunity to participate in the on-going mission of this church, your church. Help me to remember that everything I have comes from you. Open my heart and hands with generosity as I promise my support. Use my talents and financial commitments to continue your work in this church and in the world. Amen.

**RIPPLES OF GENEROSITY
STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE!**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20
ESTIMATES OF 2023 GIVING WILL BE RECEIVED
THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A CHURCH BUDGET FOR**

WHAT IS A STEWARD? WHO IS A STEWARD?
HOW DO I BECOME A STEWARD?

The answers to these questions are easy: A steward is a person who, with regard to a property both physical and functional, keeps it, cares for it, watches over it. As to who is a steward, well, we're hoping YOU are, or that YOU will want to become one. How you become a steward involves the act of you giving to our church of your time, your skills and/or your finances.

There is another question to be answered. Why give to our church? First Congregational Church occupies a unique position in Prescott. We are the only historically rooted and progressive congregation in the city that follows the way of Jesus. We are both open and affirming to all. Our sanctuary evokes historic church connections and the presence of God. The God one finds here is the One Jesus modeled for us – a God of love and grace. Many have given testimony to finding healing here from other church experiences, where God was presented as judgmental and exclusionary. Other churches have retreated to locations out of town. We have remained here on Gurley Street, downtown, easily seen, accessible and welcoming to all.

IMMEDIATE NEED

Another answer to why you would want to give to your church revolves around need, both yours and this Church's. You obviously have any number of personal reasons or needs that lead you into church participation here, where you find those needs met. Your church also has needs and right now those needs are financial. We are in unprecedented times. How do we create a church budget for 2023 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2023? These questions have no immediate answers, so our church budget and your offer of financial giving are not set in stone. They are estimates. Your estimate of giving for 2023 will help us begin to understand what might be possible for the next year. So, with a thankful heart full of hope we are asking you to help us right now, to get through our 143rd year here in Prescott.

LEGACY ANSWERS THE LONGTERM NEED

Our church is blessed to have THE FOUNDATION as a safety net. It was formed in 1992 to manage legacy gifts from our members and friends. Legacy giving is not about death. It's about giving and continuing life. It's an affirming experience that celebrates the people, values, and goals that you cherish most. You don't have to be rich to make a bequest or legacy gift. With a will or legacy gift you can give the way you want to live, by making a better or sustained future for your loved ones and a lasting impact on your faith community. If you are interested in leaving a legacy to our church, or have questions or concerns, you can send a note to the church office and a member of the Foundation will contact you.

IT'S ALL ABOUT STEWARDSHIP - PLEASE BE OUR STEWARD!

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

[CONTACT US](#) | [VISITORS](#) | [RESOURCES](#) | [CALENDARS](#) | [SERVING](#) | [EDUCATION](#) | [STAFF](#)



United
Church of
Christ

T: 928-445-4555

E: FccPrescott@gmail.com



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

[Unsubscribe \[fccprescott@gmail.com\]\(mailto:fccprescott@gmail.com\)](mailto:Unsubscribe_fccprescott@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by fccprescott@gmail.com in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!