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**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY 10:30 AM**

**From the Pastor**

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Join us for “Friendsgiving” in Perkins Hall  
TODAY AT 3PM!**

This Sunday is the end of the church year and is “reign of Christ” Sunday. The text is Matthew 25:31-46, the well-known teaching of Christ that “as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me.” The title is “A Spiritual Wellness Check Up.” We go for physical exams each year, so here is an opportunity to have a spiritual exam – good timing with Christmas coming soon!

The oldest known icon of *Christ Pantocrator* (RULER OF ALL), encaustic on panel (Saint Catherine's Monastery). Saint Catherine's Monastery lies on the Sinai Peninsula, at the mouth of a gorge at the foot of Mount Sinai, in the city of Saint Catherine, Egypt. Built between 548 and 565, the monastery is one of the oldest working Christian monasteries in the world. The two different facial expressions on either side may emphasize Christ's two natures as fully God and fully human.

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## **Join us for “Friendsgiving” in Perkins Hall!**

On Friday, November 24 at 3:00 PM, we will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner and fellowship. The meal will be at 3:00 and will be followed by our monthly Coffee House event! So please plan to stay if you wish for pie, music, and board games.

All are welcome to attend our Friendsgiving (and bring guests if you'd like!). In order to get an accurate headcount for servings, please add your name to the sign up sheet in Perkins Hall by 11/19/23.

You DO NOT have to bring anything but yourself (and an appetite!). If you're interested in sharing a dish, please contact Andrea (928-897-1235, [Rahmona287@yahoo.com](mailto:Rahmona287@yahoo.com))

Thank you!  
Andrea

**Come one, Come all, to our FCC  
COFFEE HOUSE!  
Last Friday of every month  
November 24 - 4 to 6 pm - Perkins Hall**

**Serving: good conversation, light beverages and snacks, lots of games, music of all kinds, dancing if you want it, and any other creative ideas you can come up with.**

**Please use the Alarcon St door to enter. See you then!**

**VIDEO SERIES  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT NOON  
CHURCH OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**"When Black Female Preachers Speak - Seven Important Discussions with Black Female Theologians"** A part of our de-centering whiteness efforts (de-centering patriarchy also). The next gathering will be Friday, December 8 at noon in the church office conference room. Bring your own lunch / snack and drink. The video is 33 minutes long with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Senior Pastor at Plymouth Church of the United Church of Christ in Seattle. Discussion will follow. All are welcome.

**ACKER NIGHT DECEMBER 8**

Acker Night December 8 - The Welcoming Ministry will be providing coffee, hot chocolate and cookies to those stopping by to hear Womansong at FCC/UCC. Any cookie contributions for this event would be greatly appreciated. We look at this event as a way to show the Prescott community our beautiful sanctuary and feel welcomed. Thank you so much for your support.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE/CANDY EXCHANGE**

The Welcoming Ministry is planning a Christmas cookie/candy exchange following the Dec. 17 worship service. Please bring a dozen or 2 (or more) of your favorite holiday treats - homemade or store bought to share with your church community, and don't forget our gluten free folks, if you are so inclined. Please take home only the amount of cookies/candy you have brought in exchange. Donated cookies are also appreciated. if you don't wish to take any home. Please bring baggies or plastic storage containers to take home your goodies! Thanks, as always, for your participation.

**THE RADIO PLAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS MONDAY NIGHT - OVER 90 IN ATTENDANCE! OUR THANKS TO OUR ACTORS, SOUND EFFECTS CREW, MARK ON THE ORGAN, TOM THE SET UP MAN, AND OF COURSE - BRIAN WHO DIRECTED AND MADE IT ALL HAPPEN!**



[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

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*First Congregational  
Church*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Christmas Eve Morning  
Worship Service - 10:30am**

**Christmas Eve Service  
of Lessons & Carols - 7:00pm**

**Virtual Worship services are  
recorded each Sunday**

**[fccprescott.org](http://fccprescott.org)**

**216 East Gurley Street,  
Prescott, AZ  
928-445-4555**

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED DECORATE THE CHURCH ON MONDAY! THEY PERFORMED MIRACLES TO GET IT ALL DONE - EVEN TURNING SIDWAYS! (could not figure out how to rotate pics)



# EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

## A SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

Beginning Sunday, October 1: 9:15-10:15, in the meeting room downstairs, join us to view and discuss the popular and valuable “Embracing an Adult Faith” series (featuring contemporary Christian scholar and speaker Marcus Borg) followed by selections from the “Living the Questions” video series.

Topics:

### **Borg**

October 1 - - God

8 - - Jesus

15 - -Salvation

22 - -Practice

### **Living the Questions**

October 29 - - an invitation to journey

November 5 - - taking the bible seriously

12 - - stories of creation

19 - - lives of Jesus

26 - - a passion for Christ: Paul

**Each session is self-contained, come for one, a few, or all of them!**

Questions? and child care needs: Pete Norum at [handle32pan@gmail.com](mailto:handle32pan@gmail.com).



## Don't Spend Christmas Alone!

**Be Our Guest for Christmas Dinner!**

**JOIN US IF YOU CAN!**

We will be serving food, fellowship, and fun from  
**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
on Christmas Day  
(At no charge to our guests)

**OR WE CAN DELIVER!**

Home Bound Deliveries!  
To have your meal(s)  
delivered on Christmas Day,  
call the church office at  
**928-260-6300** by  
**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>!**

**Get a Ride to and from the Church!**

**From Prescott**

Leaving Sprouts Parking Lot  
Pickup Every Half Hour: 10:30 - 1:00

Leaving Prescott United Methodist  
Church Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30

Leaving Coalition for Compassion  
& Justice Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 10:45, 11:45, 12:45

**From Chino Valley**

Leaving Safeway Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 10:30 & 11:45

Leaving American Legion  
Pickup Times: 10:45 & 12:00

**From Prescott Valley**

Leaving CASA Adult Center  
Pickup Times: 11:00, 12:00, 1:00

Leaving Safeway Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 11:20, 12:20, 1:20



ST. LUKE'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
Prescott, Arizona

2000 Shepherds Lane  
Highway 89 and Ruger Road  
(1 block north of the Airport entrance on  
Ruger Rd.)

**QUESTIONS**

Call **928-260-6300**  
**10 am - 3 pm**

If you would like to volunteer to help on Christmas day, during  
the dinner, please call **928-260-6300**.

## 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).

## Church Security

**It has come to our attention that some people have concerns for their safety while at worship service here, on Sundays. Rest easy. Not all are aware but WE DO HAVE A SECURITY TEAM IN PLACE EVERY SUNDAY. Every Sunday we have a complete team consisting of highly trained current and retired law enforcement in addition to a retired emergency room medical care giver. Not only do we come to serve this church already trained but we continue to have current training sessions specific to responses in this particular church. Our intention is to carry out our function as low key as possible so as not to detract from your purpose of being here, to worship in peace, comfort and safety. (Melissa)**

## 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: Prescott College's Freedom Education Fund (\$350) plus UCC's Strengthen the Church (\$350), Neighbors in Need (\$375), and Sow the Seed (\$250) funds.

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).

## SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

### REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

#### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us" by Daniel Bechtel Brian and Thomas

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

Gather: "Make a Joyful Noise" by Carey Landry

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

Ralph Mora

L: Know that the Holy One is God.

**P: We are God's people.**

L: Worship the Holy One with gladness;

**P: Come into God's presence with singing.**

L: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

**P: Make a joyful noise!**

L: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

**P: and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

L: Let us worship with thanks and joy!

**P: Let us praise God in song and word and prayer!**

Opening Prayer

Ralph Mora

**Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation, you are a shepherd to the lost and the least. Teach us to see your face among the poor— feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison-so that we may share in your eternal realm prepared from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed, to reign with justice, compassion, and love.**



**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

Ralph Mora

\*Hymn: "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"  
Hymnal #539

New Century

Sermon: "A Spiritual Wellness Check-Up"

Pastor Jay

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Anthem: "Whatsoever You Do" by Willard F. Jabbusch      Brian and Congregation

**Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.**

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Charity and Love – Love and Charity" arr. Brian Óg

Brian Moore

\*Prayer of Dedication

Ralph Mora

We thank you for the many gifts in our lives: Call us into a life full of gratitude, that we may recognize the blessings around us and within us, that we might give out of these blessings to bless others. May we live in your ways, that we might be reconciled to the earth, to others, and to you, in all that we do. In the name of Christ, we give thanks and offer our prayers. Amen.

\*Hymn: "Children of God"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #195

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!" by G. F. Handel

Brian and Thomas

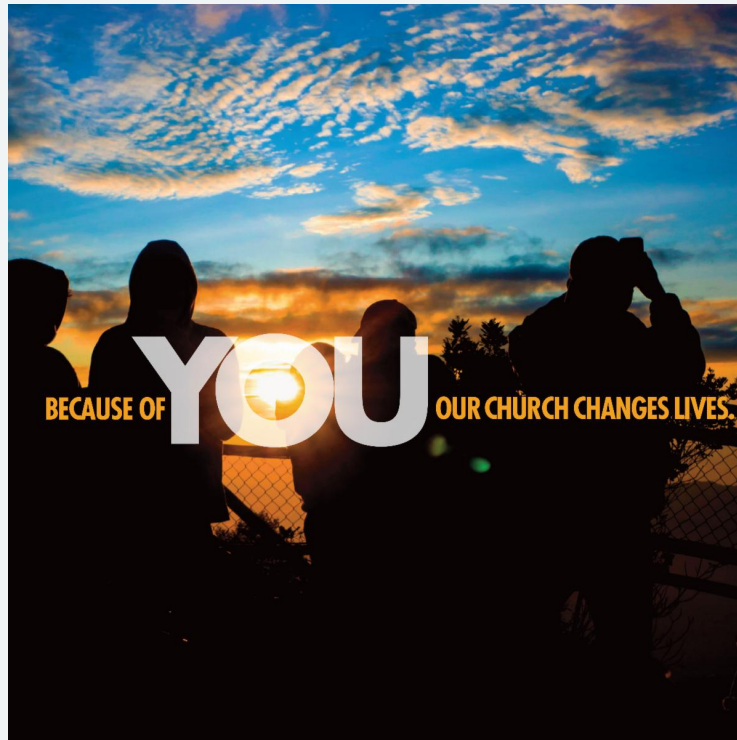
A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

**Financial activity, year-to-date as of October 31, 2023**

**Income: \$155,720**

**Expense: \$164,267**

**Net shortfall: \$8,547**



**Because of You our church changes lives.**

**STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE!**

*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.*

**ESTIMATES OF 2024 GIVING ARE BEING  
RECEIVED  
THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A  
CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2024**

## 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.

### IMMEDIATE NEED

**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.

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 2024 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2024? 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 2024 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 144<sup>th</sup> 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!**

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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

Use the QR Code below:



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United  
Church of  
Christ

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EMAIL: [fccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:fccprescott@gmail.com)



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

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