
A Message From Pastor Jay

The First Sunday of Advent is upon us! The sanctuary is decorated for Christmas to help us on our Advent journey. The first Sunday of Advent always has second coming texts from the gospels. We begin a new church year - year C in the lectionary - with Luke 21: 25-36. We get an apocalyptic Jesus which may seem strange to our modern ears. Sometimes the remedy for our trials and tribulations needs more than an aspirin. Apocalyptic literature brings hope to despair. Music is provided by Joyful Noise. A Jewish friend joins us to honor the first day of Hannukah. JJ reads the responses from last week's focus on Thanksgiving Day.

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.

WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY.

HOWEVER, WITH THE GOOD WEATHER NOW, WE ARE ABLE TO BE IN PERKINS HALL FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE WITHOUT MASKS AS YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE. WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE THE WINDOWS OPEN AND FANS CIRCULATING THE AIR IN PERKINS HALL.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY 10AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musical Guests November 28 - Joyful Noise

CHURCH FOUNDATION UPDATE

There are several ways to structure your planned gift depending on your objectives. Some options include:

- A bequest in your Will (No minimum)
- A Charitable Gift Annuity (gift of \$10,000+)
- Structuring a Charitable Remainder Trust (gift of \$50,000+)
- Outright gifts of life insurance, an IRA, real estate or appreciated assets (No minimum)

The most important aspects in structuring a Planned Gift is the opportunity to identify the cause and mission that matters most to you and the appropriate accumulated asset to use to fund your gift. United Church Funds can help you determine which gift best meets your personal, spiritual and financial objectives.

To help you get started, visit

[Visit United Church Funds Resources](#)

A new church directory is available on our website.

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

WELCOMING --GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

A list has been compiled and we already have sign ups for people contacted and/or have recently volunteered. I'm sure there are others that would like to serve in one or both capacities.

Greeter - Be there by 10am and say hi!!, glad you're here!!!
Give them a bulletin.....so fun and SIMPLE

Fellowship - Be there by 10:15am, put the goodies out you brought and other treats from cabinets in the kitchen. Tom will have coffee, tea and/or juice out. Look in the fridge also. STAY during our fellowship time and towards the end, to gather up and put away excess and general clean up (minimal). THANK YOU !!!

Place your name on the current list started in Perkins Hall or call me
Patty Lantrip 480-227-2170

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

November's Outreach Mission project is the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ). CCJ has transitioned from primarily being an emergency shelter for those

who are homeless. It now helps clients find permanent affordable housing. Once housing upwards of 50 clients a night, CCJ now has helped dozens of those clients into mobile homes, cottage homes, apartments and lodge style facilities. Additionally, CCJ works with other agencies to help provide rental assistance. Our pastor served as president of the board from 2017-2019

This year we completed the renovation of our Madison Ave facility. The Madison Ave location now includes our "Second Chance" thrift store, emergency shelter space, and offices for our CCJ staff.

CCJ also offers programs for job opportunities. Through our "Workers for Work" program clients have access to vehicles which have been donated. Through our "Prescott Worker's Progress Agency" program, clients are trained and employed to perform landscaping jobs throughout community.

Donation checks can be made payable to the church with the memo, CCJ. As always, thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis12:2)

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY

As a new member of Prescott UCC, I am inviting others to join me for a book read and discussion of Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: A Celtic Guide to Listening to Our Souls and Saving the World. John Philip Newell shares the long-hidden tradition of Celtic Christianity, explaining how this earth – based spirituality can help us rediscover the natural rhythms of life and deepen our spiritual connection with God, with each other, and with the earth. Newell introduces some of Celtic Christianity's leading practitioners, both saints and pioneers of faith, whose timeless wisdom is more necessary than ever. We meet Fridays at 1:00 pm. Please send a note to the church office if interested in joining in this discussion.
(Lisa Barnes)

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

Come in November to small group sessions with Marcus Borg. Via DVD, Borg uses plain language to explain basic faith topics for discussion by a small group meeting with him. We're thinking two opportunities each Sunday in November, one at 9:30 – 10:15, another at 11:45 – 12:30, here at church in the Maggie B meeting room downstairs

Nov. 7 God

Nov. 14 Jesus

Nov. 21 Salvation

Nov. 28 Christian Community

Questions?? Contact Pete Norum at 928-776-8867 or email him at handle32pan@gmail.com

(We'll wear masks and 8 – 10 participating at each session will space ourselves safely)

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WILL TRANSITION TO ZOOM FAITH FORUM

Starting Saturday, November 27, the new faith forum will allow a variety of faith issues to be explored. During Advent, "Incarnation: Fleshing Out the Bible's Christmas Stories" will be explored each Saturday at 10am.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" from Godspell and "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Tomerson

A Time For Children Of All Ages

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

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

Gather Song: "Hanukkah, Hanukkah, Festival of Lights" arr. DeBenedetti
Joyful Noise

Recognition of Hanukkah and Advent Melissa Gates and Justin Kranzler

The first night of Hanukkah tonight happens to coincide this year with today, the first Sunday of Advent. Both celebrations involve the lighting of candles albeit, with different meanings.

**Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-3) New Century Hymnal #116*

Lighting the First Advent Candle Melissa Gates and Justin Kranzler

Leader: These are fearful days: words of hate, acts of terror, welcomes withheld, truths denied.

People: Anxiety is a constant companion; Hope feels like a stranger.

Leader: We call out in our anxiety. We remind ourselves of God's ancient promises: Justice is coming! Love is on the way!

People: Lift up your heads and watch for the signs! (Luke 21: 28, paraphrase)

Leader: Let us light this first candle of Advent, a candle of Hope. In its light, let us think about what signs we are seeing of God at work in our lives and in our world

right now. Let us think about where we may contribute to that work.

(The candle of Hope is lit)

People: Let this candle of Advent Hope shine in our hearts all week. And remind us to lift up our heads and open our eyes to watch all around us for signs of the Holy One.

Anthem: "Light One Candle" by Peter Yarrow (in honor of Hanukkah)

Call to Worship (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Melissa Gates

L: May Advent hope and joy be yours!

P: And also yours!

L: We begin by celebrating the truth that the Christ who came, and who comes to us now, will at the end come again in glorious finality to consummate the loving work he began at Bethlehem.

P: He shall judge between nations; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning hooks.

L: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. That is our Advent hope!

Opening Prayer

Melissa Gates

Loving God, we give you thanks for the season of Advent that reminds us that your love stopped at nothing to save us and claim us as your own. □ Keep us awake during this season so that we may be able to receive all that your Holy Spirit wants to offer us. □ Speak to us now. □ Fill us with your power and your grace. □ Let us leave here a changed people willing and ready to be your light in the world. Amen. □

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Melissa Gates

*Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

New Century Hymnal #131

Sermon: "Waiting and Waiting"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

*Doxology for Advent (Peter A. Norum, 2012) Tune: New Century Hymnal #17

Sing! Praise the Source of love and grace; Thanks for our lives in time and place! Singing Praises! Alleluia! Look for the Gift of Truth and Light, Be new! Be bold! Walk forth with sight! Singing praises! Singing promise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Melissa Gates

God who calls us to live from and for your vision of justice and peace, we dedicate not only these offerings, but our lives this morning. Send us out that your songs of goodness and mercy would be known through each act of service offered in your name. Amen.

*Song: "Let it Shine" by Barbara Hamm Sing! Prayer and Praise! #196

*Benediction Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "People, Look East" French Traditional

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of October 31 is \$115,808

Total expenses as of October 31 are \$121,464.

Total EXPENSE exceeds income by \$5,656.

Year-to-date income is at 95% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 83% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

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 21
ESTIMATES OF 2022 GIVING WILL BE RECEIVED
THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A
CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2022**

**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 2022 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2022? When will we be able to fully open our church and return to worship? 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 2022 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 142nd 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!

May God bless you and our church

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 mail 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

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Church of
Christ

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