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

From the Pastor

WOMANSONG WILL BE OUR MUSICAL GUESTS SUNDAY!

This Sunday is Children's Sabbath sponsored by The Children's Defense Fund.

The multi-faith Children's Sabbaths weekend engages places of worship across the country in focusing prayers, worship, education programs, and action on learning more about the urgent problems facing our nation's children. By exploring sacred texts and teachings that call us to love and protect children, Children's Sabbaths encourages communities to respond with outreach and advocacy, and, most importantly, inspire new, year-round action to improve the lives of children.

We will look at Jesus' words regarding children and how we can support, protect, and care for them. Womansong provides music; the children serve as liturgists; and JJ & Ziggy join in blessing the children.

NEW CHAIRS IN PERKINS HALL! OUR THANKS TO RABBI SUSAN AND TEMPLE B'RITH SHALOM!

The Temple purchased new chairs and needed to find a home for their current chairs. They donated them to us! 73 chairs now adorn Perkins Hall. Let's support our friends in prayer. Financial support to Israel may be made to: American Friends of Magen David (AFMDA)



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)

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY, OCT. 14 AT 10AM

Let Pastor Jay know if you would like to be added to the Zoom invite each week. A lively discussion each week – no requirements to speak. The group includes attendees from Florida, New York, and Wisconsin. Topics range from the Bible, spirituality, history, theology, and current events. Future subjects include the Dead Sea Scrolls, understanding Trans issues, and the prosperity gospel.

VIDEO SERIES FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 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, October 27 at noon

in the church office conference room. Bring your own lunch / snack and drink. The video is 26 minutes long with Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Discussion will follow. All are welcome.



CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 15 - WOMANSONG MUSICAL GUESTS

OCTOBER 18 - PASS MEAL 5PM

OCTOBER 19 – HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE – WILCHER'S – 2-4PM

**OCTOBER 27 - BLACK FEMALE THEOLOGIAN'S VIDEO – NOON –
CHURCH OFFICE**

OCTOBER 27 – COFFEE HOUSE, 4-6PM PERKINS HALL

**OCT. 28 - PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION – PERKINS HALL 1:00-4:00 PM**

**OCTOBER 29 - BRUNCH POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP
(SAUSAGE PROVIDED)**

OCTOBER 29 – NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

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 (October 18)** 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.

RADIO PLAY RETURNS AFTER FOUR YEARS

A RADIO DRAMA! Are you an aspiring actor, or have you sometimes thought of being in a play but the thought of memorizing lines scares you half to death? Can you read well in front of an audience? This is your big opportunity!

On Monday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m., First Congregational Church will perform the Radio Drama version of Frank Capra's "**It's a Wonderful Life**". This is a fun and easy way to put on a play because *nobody needs to memorize any lines!* There are 33 roles, both large and small. We also need people to do live sound effects and play additional recorded sound effects and

music on a computer.

AUDITIONS will be Friday, October 27 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 28, from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon in Perkins Hall. If interested, please pick up a list of roles on the table in Perkins Hall. If you have questions, see Brian Moore after church or email him at brianm9943@yahoo.com.



[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

LA POSADA PLAY BY MICKY SHELTON

La Posada—the play, the place—a journey of riveting history, light-hearted fantasy, and the startling genius that brought Mary Colter's 1930 masterpiece back to life. Written by Micki Shelton and directed by Kate Hawkes, this new play blends Arizona history and fantasy to tell a glorious story of renewal. La Posada Hotel and Gardens in Winslow, Arizona, designed by groundbreaking architect Mary Jane Colter, opened in 1929, but closed a mere 27 years later and fell into neglect. In the 1990s, an unlikely couple—peace activist Allan Affeldt and artist Tina Mion—brought it back to life. This is their story. Come enjoy this timely, uplifting theatre experience brought to life by actors, projection, staging, and costumes.

La Posada plays October 6 & 7 at 7PM and **October 14 at 2PM**. Tickets and information at www.prescottelksththeatre.org or call (928) 777-1370. Tickets \$25—\$27. Groups of 5 or more \$20 and \$30 at the door.

**“SUP WITH SEVEN” IS PLANNING ANOTHER ROUND OF DINNERS
IN HOMES.**

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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.

MEDITATION OPPORTUNITY

Beginning Friday, October 20 from 3:00-4:00, we will be starting a 4-week series on Meditation Mindfulness. We will meet in the Youth Room.

We will meet once weekly for four weeks and we will be using the book Real Happiness: The Power of Meditation by Sharon Salzberg as the text.

<https://www.sharonsalzberg.com/real-happiness-book/>

If you are interested in joining this study, RSVP by October 7 to morgan.greenwald@gmail.com or contact the church office. Please plan to get your own copy of the book before October 20. If you are unable to get your own copy, just let Morgan or the church office know by 10/7/23 so that we can coordinate.

**Come one, Come all, to our FCC
COFFEE HOUSE!**

Last Friday of every month

October 27 - 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!

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.

OCTOBER 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. This month's mission emphasis is an annual UCC special offering, **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) funds the work the UCC does in its Associations and Conferences, and in the national and global church. OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing. Most of what is donated to OCWM remains within our own Southwest Conference. Your donations make it possible to live out the vision of the United Church of Christ: United in Christ's love, **a just world for all**.

Your check may be made payable to the church, with the memo line note **OCWM**. Checks marked simply "Mission" will be used at the discretion of our mission team.

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "We Shall Be Known" by Karisha Longaker

Womansong

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "How Can I Keep From Singing" arr. Judith Herrington . Womansong

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Children's Sabbath

Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Celebration is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children. This celebration is a part of a broader children's movement that aims to unite communities and religious congregations of all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children and a common commitment to improving their lives and working for justice on their behalf. In that respect, each action is bigger, more powerful, and more inspiring than the efforts of any one celebration.

Blessing of the Children

Pastor Jay

Grace and peace to you, our children. We will always give thanks for you. We pray for you constantly because we love you. We love you just as God loves you. We know, children of God, that God loves you so much. There are no words to express it. There are no wonders we can perform. But, we know that the power of God is in you. We can see it upon your faces. You remind us of God's love. Teach us to see the world as you do. Surprise us with the wonders you see. Show us what gifts God has given you. And we will bless you, and protect you, and we will always give thanks for you. We will bless you in the name of our God. We will bless you again and again. Grace and peace to you, our children. Grace and peace to you who show us God's glory shining through your faces. Amen.

*Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

New Century Hymnal #277

Call to Worship

The Children

L: The world tells us we need to be part of something big and bold;

P: We belong to God.

L: The world tells us to put our hope in wealth and success;

P: We put our faith and trust in Jesus.

L: The world tells us to seek our own gain and satisfaction;

P: We seek joy in the Spirit of God.

L: Come, let us worship God, who leads us away from the ways of the world.

P: Let us follow and live into the Way of Christ Jesus our Lord.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Anthem: "Homeward Bound" by Marta Keen

Womansong

Gospel Readings: Selections from Matthew 18 and Luke 18 (back of bulletin)
The Children

Sermon: "How Are the Children?"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Thuma Mina" South African traditional Hymn

Womansong

*Doxology

Brian Moore

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

The Children

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

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

New Century Hymnal #4

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: Blessings of Love, Sufi Chant

Womansong

TREASURER REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

Financial activity, year-to-date as of September 30, 2023

Income: \$143,334

Expense: \$147,907

Net shortfall: \$4,573



Because of You our church changes lives.

It is a statement that is both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so. It boldly challenges us to engage in the work of breaking down barriers and dismantling systems which deny the fundamental truth that God loves the world. This radically inclusive belief leaves no living thing out of the Divine embrace or allows anyone to be separated from the hope of that promise. We can be bold because we know it is true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different; or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something larger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you. Our theme Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity enables the church to increase the impact of the difference it makes. By choosing to give, even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives – even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is **YOURS**.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER!
BECAUSE OF YOU, OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES**

We are in the process of developing our church budget for 2024. If you are new to church, or this church, our stewardship Sunday is November 19. The Sundays in late October and early November give us the opportunity to present our budget needs for 2024 and begin to ask for estimates of giving for the next year. We try to live within our means, so having an idea of how much income to expect helps us plan accordingly. As you can see from the
More details to come...

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

Use the QR Code below:





United
Church of
Christ

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