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

From the Pastor

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Perhaps even people who have no connection to the Bible have heard this one somewhere. It is found in Matthew 22:15-22. We will look at this text Sunday and explore how we can be in the world but not of it, or how do we juggle our obligations to God and empire? It is ambiguous at times. But in recent years there has been a tendency to meld God and politics together. The title of the sermon is "What God Has Put Asunder, Let No One join Together." Joyful Noise provides music; Tom is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy take up an offering.

Thank you so much for all the cards, gifts, and other parts of clergy appreciation day last week. I am blessed to pastor a congregation of wonderful people! Your contagious love and positive spirit is felt and commented upon by all who come through our doors. Life is hard enough without our experience of church adding to it. This is truly a place of joy! God bless you all. Pastor Jay

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. 21 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.

**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!



CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 26 – QUAD CITY INTERFAITH CHOIR ENCORE PERFORMANCE – WOMEN IN COURAGE - TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 7PM

OCTOBER 27 - BLACK FEMALE THEOLOGIANS 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 (SAUSAGES 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 (November 15)** 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

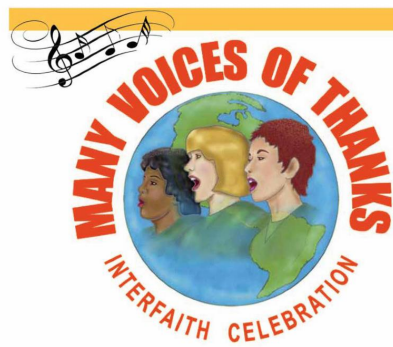
A RADIO DRAMA! Are you an aspiring actor, or have you sometimes thought of being in a play but the thought of memorizing lines scares you half to death? Can you read well in front of an audience? This is your big opportunity!

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](#)



Celebration of Thanks

Children and Adult Choirs, Dancers, Reflections on Gratitude, Singing, and Refreshments!

This Annual Celebration of Thanks brings together all faiths in our community for a night of song and shared reflection. Everyone is invited to attend.



Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Chino Valley Food Bank.

Donation opportunities will also be available to help support Operation Deep Freeze.

Sponsored by the Quad-City Interfaith Council. For more information, contact Christine Mack at cmack@prescotthabitat.org.

6:00 p.m. Thursday
November 16, 2023

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1101 Sandretto Drive in Prescott

This celebration event is free and open to the public without regard to religious affiliation.



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.

Thanks to Jean M. for copying the sand painting explanation from the wall in Perkins Hall-

THE SAND PAINTINGS

The Sand Paintings that you see here in Perkins Hall were executed by Russell E. Insley with the assistance of Douglas Auld. When Perkins Hall was added to the First Congregational Church in the mid 1950's many Church Members felt that recognition should be given to the original inhabitants of our area. Thus, the Sand Paintings were conceived as a decoration in the new facility to honor the Native Americans who lived in Northern Arizona. It was decided to tell the story of the beginning people.

WHERE THE TWO CAME TO THEIR FATHER (A Navajo Ceremonial)

This story is the beginning of The People. East, South, West, and North - - it goes everywhere, and it is full of good power. It starts when the Earth Mother, the Sky, the Sun and the Stars, the Winds and the Mountains could talk; They talked about the making of the Earth. The myth proceeds with the adventures of two grandsons of First Man and Woman. The figures in the ceremonial and painting represent Twelve Holy People - from left to right facing the stage - they are:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Sun | 5. Male Corn |
| 2. Talking God | 6. Corn - Beetle Girl |
| 3. Call God | 7. Pollen Boy |
| 4. Female Corn | 8. The Moon |

The remaining characters are not shown here, since they are depicted only by colors: yellow = Earth, blue = Sky, black = Darkness, white = Dawn and yellow = Sunlight.

The mural on the back wall of the stage might well be the mountain described in the myth, since it is descriptive of the magnificent Monument Valley country, beloved mystic land of the Navajo People.

In the Navajo way, the myths explain the world and life portraying all sorts of everyday behavior. Often, they point out a moral.

Mythology is the response of man's imagination to the uncharted areas of human experience. Since the Navajos have not rationalized their Mythology into Theology

there are some inconsistencies among various versions of the origin myth and between the origin myth and other myths. Navajo rituals are composed of symbols, and each may differ in kind much as in phonetics, psychological concepts, and individual significations. The body of Navajo Mythology is to the Navajo what the Bible is to our Theologians.

The Navajo Religion tries to demonstrate through symbolism that there is much more to the dance, song, and sand painting than the primitiveness that meets the casual eye; that there is a religious system which for years enabled the Navajo to retain their identity in a rapidly changing world. To the Navajo, religion means ritual. Each ceremony has its myth. A more precise explanation than religion would perhaps be that the Navajo way provides the People not only with most profound theological mysteries but also with rules for everyday social behavior. It also protects them against diseases, hunger, and hardship. Indeed, it answers all their questions about every aspect of Life. The following Navajo poem expresses their feelings about the environment around them.

With Beauty before me I walk; with Beauty before me I walk.
With Beauty behind me I walk; with Beauty below me I walk.
With Beauty above me I walk; with Beauty all around me I walk.
I will be Happy forever; nothing will hinder me.

Russell Insley, the creator of the Sand Paintings had a great background in the study of Indian Lore, particularly that of the Navajo and Hopi. While many times the sand painter's work is his own creation, each individual item on it has its own meaning. In creating these paintings, Russell felt that his renditions had special meaning for the First Congregational Church of Prescott and its work. Some parts of the paintings pertain to goals to which we all strive such as harmony, purification, human frailty, generosity, protection, respect, and repentance. Every part of the sand paintings has a special meaning, the way the arms point for example, colors used, size of parts of the sand painting in relation to each other.

The Sand Paintings, then, are part of the history and heritage of the First Congregational Church of Prescott. The plastic overlays are designed to protect the Paintings from the elements and the various uses which we make of Perkins Hall. The Paintings were restored during 1990 by Robert Flack, a member of our congregation. The explanation given above is a compilation of information furnished by many of the older member of our Church. It is hoped that the above information will answer many of the questions which new members ask when they see the paintings for the first time.

LOOK AT THE LARGE MURAL BEHIND THE STAGE!

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 22, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Autumn" from "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi Brian Moore and Thomas Porter

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

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

Gather Song: "Come and Gather" by Brian
Og Joyful Noise

"I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me" Sing! Prayer and Praise #139

Responsive Call to Worship (Psalms 66:1-2,5,8) Tom Macy

One: Some of us wonder what this faith is all about,

All: And come hoping to learn things useful and heart-full.

One: Some of us are confident in what we have learned and what we have believed.

All: And come longing to share our heart-full knowledge.

One: We have all come to learn from each other and from the words of scripture:

**All: You write your sacred texts, O God, in scripture and on our hearts;
you welcome us into depths of understanding. Meet us here and lead us
deeper into you; equip us for every good work. Join our desire to learn with
your willingness to teach us your ways of justice and joy.**

For this purpose, we gather, O Holy One.

Opening Prayer Tom Macy

God of Steadfast Love, you have loved us into creation, into being. You have raised us up to be people of life, and life is not without struggle, without doubts. Grant us courage and strength to persevere through the difficult times and help us to encourage others along the journey. Remind us that we are part of a community; wherever two or three are gathered, you are among us. You call us to be community, to lift up one another and to bear one another's burdens. Grant us the endurance needed to give to others, and to receive blessing and help when we need it. In the name of the Christ, our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22 Tom Macy

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be" New Century Hymnal #448

Sermon: "What God Has Put Asunder, Let No One Join Together " Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "City of God" by Dan Schutte Joyful Noise

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Wake, My Soul" by Franz Joseph Hayden Brian Moore and Thomas Porter

*Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth) Brian Moore

**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

Tom Macy

Most Gracious God, you provide for us in ways that we do not always see. In this moment, we pause to express our gratitude for your provisions. We accept this invitation to offer our gifts as an opportunity to say thank you for your many blessings. Amen.

*Hymn: "Children of God"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #195

*Postlude: "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me" African-American Spritual.

Brian Moore and Thomas Porter

TREASURER REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 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
the
More details to come...

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.

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:



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United
Church of
Christ

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