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

### From the Pastor

Wear Red on Sunday! For Halloween? No, for Reformation Sunday!

REFORMATION DAY OCTOBER 31, 1517

Since we are in a Protestant church, we will remind ourselves what that means this Sunday. We always have to go back to Luther and hear the story of grace alone, faith alone, scripture alone. The text is Matthew 22:34-46 - a new reformation of love. Alter-Notes provides music; Sandy is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy welcome Halloween guests.

Martin Luther claimed that what distinguished him from previous reformers was that while they attacked corruption in the life of the church, he went to the theological root of the problem—the perversion of the church's doctrine of redemption and grace. Luther, a pastor and professor at the University of Wittenberg, deplored the entanglement of God's free gift of grace in a complex system of indulgences and good works. In his Ninety-five Theses, he attacked the indulgence system, insisting that the pope had no authority over purgatory and that the doctrine of the merits of the saints had no foundation in the gospel. Here lay the key to Luther's concerns for the ethical and theological reform of the church: Scripture alone is authoritative (*sola scriptura*) and justification is by faith (*sola fide*), not by works. While he did not intend to break with the Catholic church, a confrontation with the papacy was not long in coming. In 1521 Luther was excommunicated; what began as an internal reform movement had become a fracture in western Christendom. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

The sale of indulgences shown in "A Question to a Mintmaker," woodcut by Jörg Breu the Elder of Augsburg, circa 1530.



**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**

**CHANGE OF VENUE - MAGGIE B. ROOM - CORNER  
ROOM BY PARKING LOT IN LOWER LEVEL**

**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!**

**COMMUNITY CUPBOARD OPEN HOUSE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28  
PERKINS HALL 1:00-4:00 PM**

**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. 28 AT 10AM  
THE BOOK OF ESTHER**

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.



**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**OCTOBER 27 - BLACK FEMALE THEOLOGIANS VIDEO – NOON – CHURCH OFFICE**

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

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

**OCTOBER 29 – BRUNCH POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP (SAUSAGES PROVIDED)**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Starting Nov 5th that church greeting/Christmas cards will be available for purchase in Perkins Hall after service. All proceeds going to the church.

## 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

## 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](mailto:brianm9943@yahoo.com).





Watch Worship Services Here

**Many Voices of Thanks**  
INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>

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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
2. Talking God
3. Call God
4. Female Corn
5. Male Corn
6. Corn - Beetle Girl
7. Pollen Boy
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](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).

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## **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](mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com).*



# SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

*Gather us together this Reformation Sunday, O God. Teach us how to honor the saints of God in ages past as well as in our present days. May the conviction of your grace written on their hearts be one that forms our own faith. Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church and be present to us in your Word.*

*In Christ's name we pray. Amen*

Prelude: "A Mighty Fortress"--arr. Phillip Keveren

Mark Achuff

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

Gathering Song: "Deep Within Our Hearts"

Alter-Notes

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

Sandy Znetko

L: Here we stand, Lord, like Martin Luther 500 years ago.

**P: The people you have redeemed.**

L: Here we stand, Lord, giving thanks to you for you are good.

**P: We give thanks that your love lasts forever.**

L: We thank you that you free those who are oppressed.

**P: Here we stand knowing that we can cry out to you for help in times of trouble.**

L: Here we stand with those who reformed the church so long ago.

**P: And with those who still are reforming the church today.**

L: Here we stand witnesses to your good news for all.

**P: Here we stand - your servants, your followers, your children – to worship you!**

\*Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

New Century Hymnal #439

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Reformation Litany

Sandy Znetko

L: We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit whose light brought new understanding of both the Living Word and the written Scripture.

**P: We give thanks for the reminder of consistent grace and mercy from God through Jesus Christ.**

L: We are grateful for the inspiration that led to the printing press, enabling the spread of information and the sharing of the gospel in many languages.

**P: Generous God, we thank you for open hearts that were prepared to hear and receive the good news of freedom in Christ.**

L: We remember the lives that were lost in the struggle to reform the church on earth- those who were martyred, those who died fighting, those who perished in hiding, and who were killed on all sides.

**P: We remember also the lives that have been lost throughout history in the name of religion and for those who die today for daring to believe.**

L: We thank you for the presence of Jesus Christ- in us, with us, and for us- and for the support of the Holy Spirit, ever-reforming us.

**ALL: God of stability and change, we thank you that true reformation is always your work and always being done in us out of your love for all. We are ever reformed by the work of your love. *Semper Reformanda!***

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:34-46

Sandy Znetko

\*Hymn: "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

New Century Hymnal #391

Sermon: "A New Reformation of Love"

Pastor Jay

*"I sought my soul, and my soul I could not see; I sought my God, and God eluded me; I sought my neighbor and found all three."*

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Anthem: "Give Him Thanks" by Marty Parks

Alter-Notes

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

Stewardship Minute.

Co-Moderator Sandy Znetko

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Meditation of Thanks"--Gerald Peterson

Mark Achuff

\*Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth)

**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

Sandy Znetko

**Bless every person that is present in the sanctuary today. Bless the offerings for the work of your church. Bless everyone who has offered time, talent, and treasure to your work. We ask everything in your mighty name. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

New Century Hymnal #436

\*Benediction



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## TREASURER REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

### A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

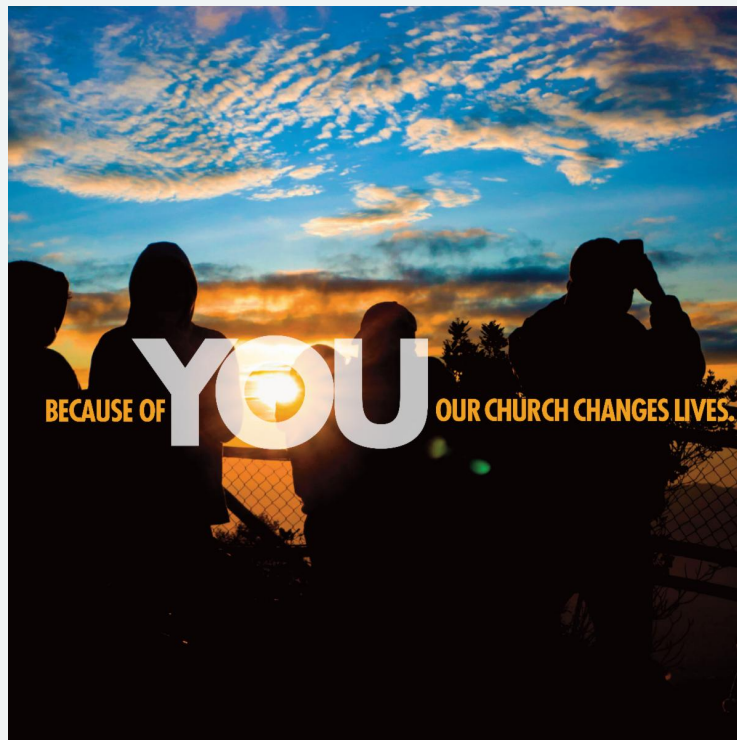
Financial activity, year-to-date as of September 30, 2023

Income: \$143,334

Expense: \$147,907

Net shortfall: \$4,573

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**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**.

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.

**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.**

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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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