



The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Weekly News and Updates

This Week at a Glance...

- Sunday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Annual Church Picnic: 12:00 p.m. after Sunday Worship Service
- Pastor's Bible Study: Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m.

Annual Church Picnic Sunday September the 24th

- 12:00 p.m. after Sunday Worship Service at Goldwater Lake Park -- You won't want to miss the fun, food and fellowship!
- Bring a dish or salad to share.
- Church is providing chicken.
- Maps to Goldwater Lake are available in Perkins Hall.
- Parking is free with tickets. They will be available the Sunday of the Picnic.
- Car pooling from the church is recommended.



FROM THE PASTOR



What would you think of a man that the Catholic Church thought was so evil that they exhumed his bones forty-four years after his death, and then burned them! His crime? He dared to get the Bible into the common language of the people! And he thought, based on his reading of scripture, that indulgences, transubstantiation, and papal authority were wrong.

John Wycliff - "The Morning Star of the Reformation"

William Frederick Yeames,
Wycliff Giving "The Poor Priests"
His Translation of the Bible

This Sunday we continue our look at our stained-glass window and focus on John Wycliff (c.1330-1384). The title of the sermon is "Wycliffe and the Word Would Not Be Stopped." (Isaiah 55:8-11) God has a way of bypassing human efforts to keep God's message from people. Does the modern church limit God's Word? Most of us would agree with Jesus that love of God and neighbor is the main message of scripture, yet the church at times has been anything but loving.

One of our Lectionary texts for Sunday - Jonah 3:10-4:11- fits this theme. Jonah wishes to exclude people he does not like from God's love and mercy.

Isaiah 55:8-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Here is some background information on Wycliffe from [Christian History](#) magazine:

John Wycliffe: Did You Know?

- John Wycliffe trained “poor preachers” who lived a simple life and traveled around the countryside teaching the Word of God to the common folk of England in their own tongue.
- John Wycliffe was responsible for the very first translation of the entire Bible into the English language.
- John Wycliffe is called “the father of English prose” because the clarity and the popularity of his writings and his sermons in the Middle English dialect did much to shape our language today.
- One of Shakespeare’s greatest comic characters, Sir John Falstaff, was based on an English knight who was a follower of Wycliffe and who died a martyr’s death.
- One Pope issued five bulls against John Wycliffe for heresy, the Catholic Church in England tried him three times, and two Popes summoned him to Rome, but Wycliffe was never imprisoned nor ever went to Rome.
- Although his English followers, called Lollards or Wycliffites, were persecuted and practically disappeared from England, John Wycliffe’s influence on the Bohemians influenced the great Protestant Reformation of the early 16th Century.
- In the 14th Century world, Oxford was Europe’s most outstanding university and John Wycliffe was its leading theologian and philosopher.
- John Wycliffe’s patron and protector, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, was also the patron of Geoffrey Chaucer and both the preacher and the poet worked in the duke’s services at one time in their lives.
- The writings of John Hus, the Bohemian reformer, which got him condemned and burned at the stake, depended heavily on translations and adaptations of tracts, treatises, and sermons by John Wycliffe.
- The Wycliffe translation of the Bible was made from a Latin language, hand-written manuscript of a translation a thousand years old and before any verse numbers had been assigned.
- With all his questioning of the doctrines of the church and his criticism of the corruption of the clergy, John Wycliffe was never excommunicated nor did he ever leave the church, but, in fact, he suffered his fatal stroke while at Mass.
- Even though John Wycliffe died peacefully at home in bed on New Year’s Eve, the Church exhumed his body 44 years later, burned his bones, and scattered the ashes in a nearby river.
- At the Diet of Worms in 1521, Martin Luther was accused of renewing the errors of Wycliffe and Hus by making the Scriptures his final authority.

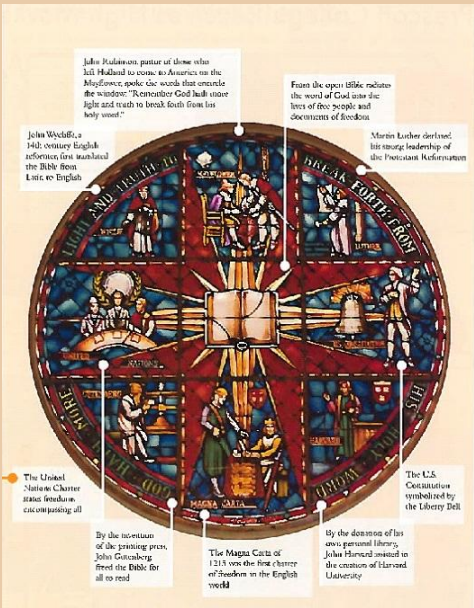
As a postscript to his life, it must be noted that Wycliffe died officially orthodox. In 1415, the Council of Constance burned John Hus at the stake, and also condemned John Wycliffe on 260 different counts. The Council ordered that his writings be burned and directed that his bones be exhumed and cast out of consecrated ground. Finally, in 1428, at papal command, the remains of Wycliffe were dug up, burned, and scattered into the little river Swift. Bishop Fleming, in the reign of Henry VI, founded Lincoln College for the express purpose of counteracting the doctrines which Wycliffe and his followers had promulgated.

As history has revealed, Wycliffe’s bones were much more easily dispersed than his teachings, for out of a sea of controversy and angry disputation rose his greatest contribution-the English Bible. The chronicler Fuller later observed: “They burnt his bones to ashes and cast them into the Swift, a neighboring brook running hard by. Thus, the brook hath conveyed his ashes into Avon; Avon into Severn; Severn into the narrow seas; and they into the main ocean. And thus the ashes of Wycliffe are the emblem of his doctrine which now is dispersed the world over.” (Thomas Fuller, *The Church History of Britain* (1655; repr. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1845), 424.

Sermon Series Continues...

- Sept. 24 John Wycliffe
- Oct. 1 The Mayflower
- Oct. 8 Harvard
- Oct. 15 The U.S. Constitution
- Oct. 22 The United Nations
- Oct.29 Martin Luther

(October 31 - the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation)



GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sept 24: The Gilges, Staci Robbins, and Bill Rouse
- Sept 30: The Gilges and the Gards

Concerning the relief efforts following Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida, the UCC congregations nationwide are making contributions for the relief effort. Our UCC headquarters staff has already begun funneling dollars and supplies to the areas hit by Hurricane Harvey. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to our local church, with a memo line note, "Hurricane Relief."

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED
OCTOBER 22

Do you want to learn about our church's long and fascinating history, both as First Congregational then United Church of Christ in Prescott? And would you like to share in a discussion on how our church is valuable in our Prescott/Prescott Valley area and share why you are joining or why you joined?



Whether you are becoming a member now or have been a member for any length of time, please join Rev. Marti Garrison and Julie McCurdy to learn about who we are and our core beliefs. We will show new members around the church too.

On **Sunday, October 8th**, Marti will lead the discussion on the Congregational/United Church of Christ history and how we operate as a church family. On **Sunday, October 15**, Julie will open up a conversation on how this particular church is so needed and valued in our community. We will meet after service in the big meeting room downstairs, about 11:45.

Our new member Sunday is October 22nd. It's wonderful to welcome new members!

Anniversaries

Ralph Wagner & Susan Lemons	5-Sep
William & Rebecca Bryant	22-Sep

Birthdays

Christy Dinsman	7-Sep
Tom Macy	14-Sep
Mardell Hull	17-Sep
Yoichi Matsumoto	18-Sep
Terri Gamble	21-Sep
Arlene Reith	22-Sep
John Wilson	28-Sep
Destiny Hoyt	29-Sep
Dave Chatfield	30-Sep
Marilyn Kerstine	30-Sep

THE CHOIR IS NOW CALLED
"THE CHANCEL SINGERS"

You do not have to be able to read music or be a great singer to join us! The Chancel Singers are seeking people who love to sing. Anyone interested is invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Chancel. We also practice on Thursday evenings at 5:00. You may attend one of both of these times, depending on what suits you.

For more information, please contact the Music Director, Jane Osborn, at 928-713-4752 or prescottsong@hotmail.com.

FROM UCC.ORG

A Tiny House aims to provide big solutions for South Carolina LGBTQ community

September 19, 2017
Written by Anthony Moujaes

When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ will be ready to meet them.

Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome in at home. The \$20,000 project is in progress with the help of a \$10,000 Grasstop Grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. The first occupant could be ready to find refuge there in January.



"We are in the Deep South, and LGBTQ individuals are particularly vulnerable in Upstate South Carolina, and often experience rejection by friends and family when they come out," said the Rev. Bruce Schoup, pastor of Peace Congregational. "This project hopes to provide short-term, immediate housing so that the individual or individuals can stay in the community where they feel most secure, in space which they do not need to share, and space that feels special – thus, a tiny house on wheels."

The ministry has two areas of focus: first, to provide emergency, short-term housing for LGBTQ individuals who are thrown out of their homes because of their sexual orientation, and second, to engage with Clemson students to offer its and an inclusive, welcoming and progressive Christians presence through a campus group called PR(i)SM, a new ministry of Peace Church.

The new \$10,000 Grasstop Grant comes from the denomination's Neighbors in Need program, one of the UCC's five special mission offerings. The grant is a partnership with UCC congregations like Peace Congregational, provided for innovative justice work. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing that work in their local communities.

The remaining costs for the project are being donated, which includes about \$6,000 in materials and supplies, private gifts, and labor.



Schoup expects about 100 people to be involved in the project, and he isn't certain about the number of people who will eventually use it.

"It's difficult knowing how many people will benefit from the project over the course of time," he said. "It will begin by benefitting individuals for a two-to-three-month period, after which time it will move on to the next person in need, continuing that pattern into the future."

The Tiny House will sit on a 16-foot trailer, where it can be moved to various locations as needed. Construction began this summer, with the interior scheduled to be completed by December. In addition to providing a safe and mobile location for vulnerable LGBTQ persons, the Tiny House is designed to feel more like a home instead of a trailer on the inside, and there are also environment-friendly components, such as a biodegradable toilet.

The idea for the Tiny House came to Schoup when he [visited a project](#) in Seneca, S.C., where a small trailer sat in a lot. Schoup saw it and determined it was something that Peace Congregational could replicate – putting the whole plan in motion back in 2016, an effort to meet a critical need for temporary housing in South Carolina. According to a 2012 study, 1.6 million young people find themselves homeless in the U.S. each year, with 40 percent of them identifying as LGBTQ.

Peace Congregational was one of the first churches to receive a Neighbors in Need Grasstop Grant, part of a new approach by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide increased funding in hopes of a higher community impact. Beginning this year, Justice and Witness Ministries moved to an annual awarding cycle – instead of a biannual cycle. The 2017 Neighbors in Need applications are available [online only](#), and the suggested offering will be taken by churches in early October. Grant recipients will be announced shortly thereafter.

STEWARDSHIP

Offerings		
	September	YTD
Offerings	\$ 5,704	\$ 76,182
Facility Use	\$ 580	\$ 8,884
Foundation	\$ -	\$ 42,876
Other		\$ 5,509
Total	\$ 6,284	\$ 133,451
Expenses		
	August	YTD
Expenses	\$ 14,232	\$ 205,792
Annual Budget Needs		
	August	YTD
Expenses	\$ 254,276	\$ 200,531

Attendance; Monthly Average		
January	102	
February	89	
March	89	
April	108	
May	101	
June	79	
July	96	
August	91	
Sept	93	
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

Outreach Gifts		
Jan		
Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 510	
Feb		
PASS	\$ 140	
March		
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 165	
April		
One Great Hour Share	\$ 1,183	
May		
Church World Service	\$ 319	
June		
Strengthen the Church	\$ 280	

July		
Pancake Breakfast	\$ 3,027	
August		
Discovery Gardens	\$ 65	
Sept		
Neighbors in Need	\$ 276	
Undesignated Missions		
	YTD	\$ 825
Famine Relief		
Special Offering	\$ 795.00	
Hurricane Relief		
Special Offering	\$ 4,500	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Hazeltine room. All adults are welcome.

EVERY WEEK COMMUNION

“Every Sunday Communion” takes place in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. Communion is open to all.

ONCE A MONTH COMMUNION

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

If you would be interested in playing with us, we will train you! This is a fun and rewarding contribution to our worship.

We meet for rehearsal at 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

CHANCEL SINGERS

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase its membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services and Thursday nights at 5:00 p.m. Come when you can.

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care holds a weekly prayer time at 11:00 am on Mondays in the Chapel downstairs. Place your prayer requests in the prayer box in Perkins Hall.

PASS MEAL

Once a month we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.

VAN MINISTRY

If you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please let Bill Rouse know by the Saturday before. 602-769-5770

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal in the Hazeltine Room each Sunday. If you like to sing or can play an instrument, we are looking for new members. We play folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Contact Melissa Gates phone:207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins, or wait until the children's time with the pastor and then go to Sunday school. Children are also welcome to stay in the worship service at the discretion of the parent(s).

CONTACT US

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PRESCOTT, UCC

216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Office: 928-445-4555

Pastor Jay: 928-899-9066

Julie: 928-710-1379

ADMINISTRATION

Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00

Friday 9:00 - 1:00

PASTOR JAY

Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00

other times by appointment



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30

