

A Message From Pastor Jay

This Sunday we continue our series on the letter of James. James 3:1-12 is about the tongue - "with the tongue we praise and with the tongue we curse" James reminds us. His admonition that we realize the power of our speech and teaching for good and bad is certainly relevant to our times. What we say, email, text, and tweet make our modern way of "speaking" even more potent than James' day. James describes the tongue as a "restless evil, full of deadly poison." Social media fans its flames. Denise returns to provide music. Sarah is worship leader. And JJ has no trouble showing us his big red tongue.

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.

PER CDC GUIDELINES, WE HAVE RETURNED TO WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY AND PERKINS HALL.

After church social time with refreshments and finger foods has been suspended until COVID cases decline.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

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

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS

The Rev. Ann Kansfield, a UCC minister and New York City Fire Department chaplain, will take part in a remembrance of 9/11 in the city on Saturday. In 2001, Kansfield, now pastor at Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn, was working as a financial advisor in New York. She was going to interview for a position on Wall Street that September day when she learned the city was under attack. Kansfield, the FDNY's first female chaplain, has written "A Prayer for the Fallen" for Saturday's service at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. The 1:30 p.m. EDT memorial will honor the 343 FDNY firefighters killed in the attacks and the 256 other department members who died from related illnesses.

"We pray for the fallen. They are the ones we love so dearly and miss so

deeply. We have entrusted them to you and ask you to continue to embrace them in your love. We don't really have to tell you, God, since you already know. But we'll say it again: the ones who have died and whom we entrust to your care are some of the best people — wise, brave, compassionate, joyful, whip-smart and really humorous. They are family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. They are your beloved children. We also pray for the crestfallen. This day marks a time of so much sadness and grief for so many. We ask for your care and comfort for the living. Remind us again and again that you are with us and you always have been.”

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musical guest September 12 - Denise Nasso

Per CDC guidelines, we are returning to mask wearing on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary and Perkins Hall. Our after-worship fellowship time in Perkins Hall is on pause until COVID cases decline in our community.

New members will be received in coming weeks. Let Pastor Jay know if you would like to join.

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

Our church anniversary is Sunday, September 26. Due to COVID, we decided to have a gathering in the parking lot after worship. No sit down meal, but a time of fellowship, refreshments, and light snacks.

SEPTEMBER MISSION NEWS

Our September Mission Outreach will be directed to two Special UCC offerings. [1] Ida Hurricane Relief (IHF) and [2] Neighbors in Need (NIN). With the devastation left by Ida, there will continue to be on-going rebuilding, repairs and infrastructure work needing to be done well into the future. If you choose this project, please mark your check's memo line, IHF. Our second offering, Neighbor's In Need, supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Through a network of justice advocates, work is accomplished to address such issues as; voting rights, hate crimes, health care, immigration and environmental pollution. If you choose this option, please mark your check's memo line, NIN.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bert Austin – attends Emmanuel Lutheran also; security team at church; tech. geek; interested in our Foundation and adult teaching

Charity Knight – wants to be called Knight; works at Dept. of Child Services; married to Brandee; music, security, and archives interest

Linda Mast - Dr. Mast teaches nursing at Northcentral Univ.; Presbyterian Elder in past; Army Nurse Corps vet.; welcoming/outreach

Patty Brenner – no intro needed; picks up our attendance registers each week; quite the dancer with her husband!

David Pifer – retired nurse; trained parish and hospice nurse; music - hand bell choir; called to care; welcoming; small groups

Coco Lanigan – retired nurse; trained parish and hospice nurse; called to care; small groups; hospitality

Sandy Znetko - Church of the Palms; music; welcoming; office support; Called to Care - a commissioned Stephen Minister; greeting card creator

Ed Znetko – Church of the Palms; music; physical resources; woodworking

Lee Danaher – Community Cupboard board member; retired from financial industry

Donna Hill – our video tech; lives in Chino Valley; piano; flute; singer; hand bell choir;

Carolyn Christians – a professional clown!; jewelry making; PASS - Community Cupboard - Outreach

Tim Robinson - retired in 2020 - moved from Simi Valley to Prescott; golf; hiking; travel; grandkids; FCC foundation board; Community Cupboard

Pam Robinson - moved from Simi Valley to Prescott in 2020; hiking; travel; grandkids; social justice; money counter; office support

6 more new members will be welcomed in coming weeks! Welcome to all! God bless you!

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Abide With Me"

Denise Nasso

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

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

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Welcome New Member

*Passing of the Peace

Opening Prayer:

On this morning, as every morning, **we are surrounded by God's grace.**
In these moments, as every moment, **we are called to discipleship by Jesus.**
Throughout this day, as every day, **we are taught peace and hope by the Spirit.**
Open our ears, Teacher of souls, so that we might hear the cries of the hungry and feed them, the loneliness of the unloved and embrace them, the songs of little children and learn them. Give us the words we need, Teacher of justice, so that we might challenge the powerful and callous, so that we work to bring together families separated by fear, so that we might speak out when everyone else is silent. Strengthen our hearts, Teacher of hope, so that we might sustain the weary, not just with words, but with our friendship; so that we might not hide but face down cruelty with kindness and mercy. Morning by morning, day by day, continue to teach us your ways; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn: "There Is a Balm in Gilead" (all three verses) New Century Hymnal #553

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

Sermon: "The Tongue – A Way to Measure Spirituality"

Pastor Jay

Solo: "O God, My God"

Denise Nasso

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jay

Call to Reconciliation

What are folks saying about us? Do they mention our kindness, or how hard we are on others; do they speak of our love, or about our selfishness? God invites us to follow Jesus and reflect him in our lives. Join me, as we confess how we have not done so, as we pray:

Prayer for Forgiveness

All we need to do is open our mouths to show that we give our tongues free rein. We claim we love others but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl epithets at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice. But with your gracious mercy, Tender-hearted God, you can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Can we handle it – the good news; the fact that God’s grace can transform us; that God can teach us new songs; that God can fill us with hope and joy? It is hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept it. But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*Hymn: “Sing Them Over Again to Me” (first and last verses)
New Century Hymnal #319

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Offertory: "September Song"

Denise Nasso

Prayer of Dedication

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Song After Benediction: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Denise Nasso

Communion is Available at the Front of the Sanctuary

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of August 31 is \$99,248.

Total expenses are \$93,198.

Net income is \$6,050.

Year-to-date income is at 81% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 63% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP - THE WISDOM OF JAMES

The Letter of James may be the earliest of the New Testament writings (maybe Galatians is earlier?) James was the brother of Jesus and the leader of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15). The Letter is practical in nature and contains helpful applications to modern day problems - facing trials in life; treatment of the poor; faith and deeds go together; taming the tongue; proper wisdom; the power of prayer; and patience in suffering.

September 5 - James 2:1-17

September 12 - James 3:1-12

September 19 - James 3:13-4:8

September 26 - James 5:13-20

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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