

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

From the Pastor

Last Sunday Jesus gave us a road map for dealing with conflict. This week he deals with forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35). Our friends from Cameroon present an artistic rendering of the parable Jesus tells:



JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. In this dramatic depiction of the parable of the unforgiving servant, the viewer is thrust into the middle of the narrative. In the background, we see an unforgiving servant demanding from another a debt he is owed. The forgiving lord is being told of the vengeful nature of one of the servants upon whom he had mercy. The faces of the messenger and lord display shock and anger at the forgiven servant's lack of compassion. Undoubtedly, the viewer is inspired to feel similar levels of indignation. From this parable and painting, we should be reminded that a merciful heart is one that mirrors God's.

Our worship service will feature Joyful Noise with Andrea as soloist; Aron as liturgist; and JJ using a calculator to count how many times Ziggy has sinned against him.

**VIDEO SERIES
FRIDAY, SEPT. 22 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 first gathering will be Friday, Sept. 22 at noon in the church office conference room. Bring your own lunch / snack and drink. The video is 33 minutes long and is entitled "what is the future of spirituality?" Discussion will follow. All are welcome.

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY, SEPT. 9 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. Baptism is the topic for this Saturday. Future subjects include the Dead Sea Scrolls, understanding Trans issues, and the prosperity gospel.



CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPT. 16 – ZOOM FAITH FORUM 10AM
SEPT. 22 - BLACK WOMEN PREACHERS VIDEO - NOON - CHURCH OFFICE
SEPT. 24 – CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY WITH CONFERENCE STAFF
SEPTEMBER 29 – COFFEE HOUSE – PERKINS HALL, 4-6PM
OCTOBER 4 – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – PARKING LOT – 4:00 PM
OCTOBER 19 – HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE – WILCHERS – 2-4PM
**OCT. 28 - PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION –PERKINS HALL 1:00-4:00 PM**

LAUNCH PAD TREK FOR TEENS

Andrew Greenwald is participating in the Launch Pad's Trek for Teens fund raising campaign. The Launch Pad is an all-inclusive teen center in Prescott that provides space and opportunity for Prescott youth. The youth are very involved in every aspect of its operation, and it is an excellent organization that promotes community development,

youth entrepreneurship, and guidance.

Andrew has committed to hike the Grand Canyon rim to rim, 24 miles, on October 7th in an effort to support the youth by raising money for The Launch Pad. If you would like to contribute to support this event and this important local resource for teens, please visit Andrew's team's website using this link or <https://give.thelaunchpadtecenter.org/fundraiser/4795850>

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

Last Friday of every month

September 29 - 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!

RADIO PLAY RETURNS AFTER FOUR YEARS

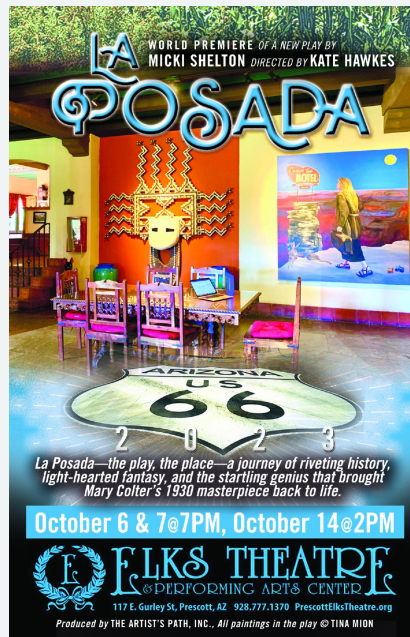
A RADIO DRAMA! Are you an aspiring actor, or have you sometimes thought of being in a play but the thought of memorizing lines scares you half to death? Can you read well in front of an audience? This is your big opportunity!

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.prescottelkstheatre.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.
A SIGN UP SHEET IS IN PERKINS HALL**



143RD CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, SEPT. 24
10:30AM WORSHIP
POT-LUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW IN PERKIN'S HALL

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.

SEPTEMBER MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Our September Mission Outreach will be directed toward **Neighbors in Need (NIN)**. This is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that 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.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

Donation checks may be made to the church with the memo **NIN**. 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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "There's a Spirit of Love in this Place" by Mark A. Miller Andrea, Brian & Thomas

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "No Matter" by Roger P. Miller Joyful Noise

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 (from Romans 14) Aron Smith

L: Welcome those who differ,

P: but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

L: Some believe in eating anything, while others eat only vegetables.

P: Those who eat must not despise those who abstain,

L: and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat;

P: for God has welcomed all.

L: Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike.

P: Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

L: Those who eat, eat in honor of Christ,

P: while those who abstain, abstain in honor of Christ:

L: And all give thanks to God.

P: We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

L: If we live, we live to Christ, and if we die, we die to Christ:

All: So then, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Aron Smith

"The Love Round"

**Love, love, love, love, Christians this is your call:
Love your neighbor as yourself, for God loves us all.**

Sermon: "Unlimited Forgiveness"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "They'll Know We Are Christians" by Peter Scholtes

Joyful Noise

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Give Thanks to the Lord" by Stephen M. Austin

Brian & Thomas

*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

Aron Smith

You are the Great Provider, the Giver of all gifts; your love the only true currency. Thank you for putting money into our hands, and so we freely offer it back to you, for use in your service. We do this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Hymn: "Children of God"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #195

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Children of God" by James F. D. Martin

Brian & Thomas

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 (September 20)** 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.

TREASURER REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

Activity as of August, 2023

Income vs Expense:

Income is \$132,952.

Expenses are \$128,879.

Net Income is \$4,074.



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 year-to-date income and expenses listed above, we are doing a good job!

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:



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