First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller September 23, 2022

A Message From Pastor Jay

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

We welcome 10 new members on Sunday! Our 142nd church anniversary is Monday, so we celebrate the continuing new life in our congregation. We will have a potluck right after worship to welcome our new members and celebrate our anniversary. Luke 16:19-31 is our text. Alter-Notes provides music; Carolyn is liturgist; JJ & Ziggy illustrate almsgiving.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, AT 1:00 PM CHURCH PARKING LOT

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.

Watch Worship Services Here

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FORUM SATURDAYS 10AM

September Zoom forums focus on Native American Spirituality
October's focus will be feminist theology

ZOOM SERMON PREP FRIDAYS 10AM

Join Pastor Jay for a discussion of Sunday's sermon text/topic

Let Pastor Jay know if you would like to receive the weekly Zoom invite

THE FAMILY REQUESTS THAT MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR MURL PREBLE BE SENT TO OUR CHURCH

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 11

Time to plan for the brief pageant during worship on December 11. See Melissa if interested. Roles Needed: costume/actor manager, angel, Mary, Joseph, 3 kings, 2 shepherds

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2023 PATTY LANTRIP WILL BE LEADING THIS COMMITTEE PLEASE LET HER KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP HER IN THIS EFFORT

REV. LLOYD EVANS NEW ADDRESS 2889 SAN PASQUAL STREET PASADENA, CA 91107

Musical Guests Sunday - Alter-Notes

The Office Is Open Most Mornings and By Appointment. Call Prior To Visiting for Confirmation: Pastor Jay 928-899-9066

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.

Last month, thanks to your generous giving, the Mission Outreach team was

grateful to send out the following donations to these organizations:

Discovery Gardens Preschool (\$535)

Habitat for Humanity (\$1,700)

Prescott Community Cupboard (\$1,750)

We also bought and delivered \$145 worth of back-to-school supplies for our amazing Sunday School teachers, Ms. Jeni and Ms. Audra, who work at Discovery Gardens themselves.

As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

Mission Outreach Committee members are Gary & 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.

CHURCH FOUNDATION

The Foundation was formed as a separate non-profit Corporation by the Church back in 1993 as a way to focus management of large donations and gifts for the benefit of the Church. Currently the Foundation manages financial assets and owns the building leased by our new tenant, Red, White and Brew. The majority of the financial assets are invested with United Church Funds in Balanced Mutual Funds. The funds are a result of Endowments and Memorial Gifts to the Foundation from past members of our Church or their families. The restaurant building was also a gift to the Foundation. In many cases the gifts list how the donors wanted the monies to be used. Some examples are Christian education needs of the children, the youth, and young families of the Congregation and for capital needs of the Church. The Foundation By-Laws explain how the Foundation Board is to act in managing the funds for the benefit of the Church. When a need arises, typically the Church Cabinet will make a written request for funds and the Foundation Board will act on that request. The Board does not look to micromanage Church finances, but it needs to determine which fund may be the most appropriate fund to provide the funding request. The Board also is responsible for taking a long-term view of the use and sustainability of the endowments for the future benefits of the Church. Substantial donations to the Foundation can be complex financial transactions involving donor taxes, restrictions on the use of the donations by the Foundation and may take several different legal forms. The United Church Funds has several very good brochures and videos on their web site that give good explanations of the process and choices that can be used to donate to the Foundation – ucfunds.org

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 25, 2022

10:30 a.m.

*Those who are able may stand

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"—arr. David Paxton

Mark Achuff

Words of Welcome – Announcements

Welcome of New Members: Co-Moderator Linda Mast

*Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "The Presence of God is Here"

Alter-Notes

A Time for Children Of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy (Children may go downstairs for Sunday school following this time)

Responsive Call to Worship

Carolyn Christians

The word has come for us from God:

who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

The word has come to us from Jesus:

who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

The word flows to us from the Spirit:

who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

When we fall into the traps of groundless fears, you deliver us.

When an epidemic of worry threatens to overcome us, you protect us.

When we are tempted by wealth, you point us to those who have nothing but share everything. Servant of the poor, we follow you.

We worship you this morning!

*Hymn: "Let Us with a Joyful Mind"

New Century Hymnal #16

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Carolyn Christians

Sermon: "Self-Centered Life Scores 'F' On Final Exam"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: Anthem: You Are My Hiding Place; arr. Marty Parks

Alter-Notes and Mark Achuff

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

*Hymn: "I Want to be Ready"

New Century Hymnal #616

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Chariot's Coming!" Traditional

Sandy Znetko, Morgan Greenwald, Mark Achuff

*Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth)

Mark Achuff

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

Carolyn Christians

God, we thank you for this place we have to worship you. We so easily take for granted the church building, the members who keep things clean and who keep things going, the lights and plumbing and all the other things it takes to hold our worship services each week. Help us to realize that while it may not be what we consider to be an exciting cause, it is one that is important to your cause. Bless this offering. Amen.

*Hymn: "Shall We Gather at the River" New Century Hymnal #597

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Praise Him! Praise Him"—arr. Robert W. Thygerson

Mark Achuff

TREASURER REPORT

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Activity as of August 31, 2022 Contributions and other revenue: \$109,340 Expenses: \$100,307

Contributions exceed expenses by \$9,003

ABOUT THE CHURCH

The Church of Firsts

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the church of firsts, weaving God's message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace. Together, we live out our faith in ways that effect change in our communities. The UCC's many "firsts" mean that we have inherited a tradition of acting upon the demands of our faith. When we read in Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"—a demand is made upon us. And so we were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African-American, the first to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first Christian church to affirm the right of same-gender couples to marry. We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement and the Civil Rights movement. Our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country.

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

CONTACT US | VISITORS | RESOURCES | CALENDARS | SERVING | EDUCATION | STAFF



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