

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



From the Pastor

143RD CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LAST SUNDAY

WE WELCOMED OUR CONFERENCE STAFF MEMBERS

Transitional Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins

Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday. Followers of Jesus around the world will gather to share Holy Communion, The Eucharist, The Lord's Supper, whatever each community names it. The sermon will make the case that God is always out ahead of the church in offering extravagant love to all. Christians and the church are busy setting up barriers and boundaries, We will look at how this happened in the early history of the church in the book of Acts and how it continues today. Alter-Notes are musical guests; Melissa is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy host communion for the children.

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)



**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!

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 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. Future subjects include the Dead Sea Scrolls, understanding Trans issues, and the prosperity gospel.

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.



CHURCH CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 4 – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS (Live, Departed, Stuffed) –
PARKING LOT – 4:00 PM**

OCTOBER 19 – HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE – WILCHERS – 2-4PM

**OCTOBER 27 - BLACK FEMALE THEOLOGIAN'S VIDEO – NOON –
CHURCH OFFICE**

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

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

OCTOBER 29 – NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

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.thelaunchpadteencenter.org/fundraiser/4795850>

RADIO PLAY RETURNS AFTER FOUR YEARS

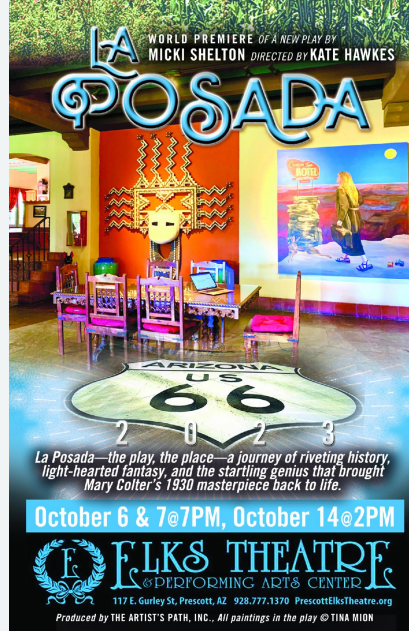
A RADIO DRAMA! Are you an aspiring actor, or have you sometimes thought of being in a play but the thought of memorizing lines scares you half to death? Can you read well in front of an audience? This is your big opportunity!

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**

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.

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/>

If you are interested in joining this study, RSVP by October 7 to morgan.greenwald@gmail.com or contact the church office. Please plan to get your own copy of the book before October 20. If you are unable to get your own copy, just let Morgan or the church office know by 10/7/23 so that we can coordinate.

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.

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 1, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday, honoring the One who binds us together as one Christian community around the planet and calls us to live out our faith as One Body.

Prelude:

Mark Achuff

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "Come to the Table"

Alter-Notes

A Time for Children Of All Ages

(Children of all ages are welcome to receive communion – children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after communion)

Call to Worship

Melissa Gates

Around the world, in all nations, the faithful have gathered for worship.

We gather in this space to worship you, O God.

Around the world, speaking in all languages, the faithful come to pray together.

We lift up our prayers to you, O God.

Around the world, using tortillas and pita, crackers and bread, the faithful remember your body that was given to us.

We share in the meal of remembrance, O Christ our Savior.

Around the world, we remember our brothers and sisters this World Communion Sunday.

We worship, we pray, we remember, and we celebrate our diversity and our unity in Christ.

*Hymn: "Taste and See"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #86

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we thank you that you are with us. Forgive us when we forget that you dwell with people of other colors, nations, and cultures. As we approach your sacred table this morning, open our eyes to those occasions when we look down on those who are different from us. Give us the strength to repent and to receive the signs of your forgiveness, acceptance, and constant presence in the bread and the cup; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

The Eucharist (Communion is open to all)

God of all creation: pour out your Spirit of grace and peace upon these, your simple gifts, which become the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation for us. May our eyes be opened to the oppression and injustices the world would keep us from seeing. As the rich wine of hope and joy refreshes our hearts and souls, may we be ready to share all we have been given, to speak up for the voiceless, to gather the broken into our family. And when all time has stopped moving and we sit down at the feast prepared for all, we will join hands to sing the eternal anthem of your vision of hope and peace for all creation.

Communion Music:

Mark Achuff

Scripture Readings:

Acts 1:8 – The Promise of Pentecost: Witnesses to God's Love

Pastor Jay

Acts 8:14 – Samaritan Pentecost

Pastor Jay

Acts 8:26-40 – African Pentecost

Melissa Gates

Acts 11:1-18 – Gentile Pentecost

Melissa Gates

*Hymn: "I Come With Joy"

New Century Hymnal #349

Sermon: "The Magnanimous Love of God"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "In Remembrance" Burly Red

Alter-Notes

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jay

Our Father, who 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Offertory:

Mark Achuff

*Doxology

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

Melissa Gates

Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human body, call us to community. Remind us that in you we are one. Awake in us a respect for one another and celebrate with us the diversity within that unity. May it be so now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn: "God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command" New Century Hymnal #592

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude

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 (October 18)** 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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United
Church of
Christ

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