

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

From the Pastor

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



**WE WELCOME OUR CONFERENCE STAFF MEMBERS
TODAY!**

Transitional Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins
Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrler-Peacock

The Rev. Dr. Altonette D. Hawkins, fondly known as Dr. Toni, is an ordained minister dually aligned in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is an adjunct faculty member at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS) and Lexington Theological Seminary. Toni has been mentoring seminarians and members in discernment for more than a decade as a field education supervisor, an Under Care mentor in the DOC, and advisor in the former In Care and current Member in Discernment processes in the UCC.

Dr. Hawkins is a licensed pastoral counselor, a certified conflict mediation and negotiation coach, and DEI facilitator. She received training at the Harvard University School of Law, Executive Education Program on Negotiation and Dispute Resolution. Also, she trained in conflict transformation through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Anti-Racism and Pro-Reconciliation Training Team.

She has served as a local pastor in the DOC and the UCC in the states of Maryland and Kentucky. She is among those listed in Who's Who in Louisville: African American Profiles. She serves on a variety of local, regional, and national boards.

She earned a B.A. in Public Administration from Rutgers University, a M.Div. at Howard University School of Divinity, and a D. Min. at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Hawkins is the mother of two adult sons, three grandchildren. Her guiding scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6 and favorite saying is "the best is yet to come!"

Rev. Dr. Barb Doerrer-Peacock is the Associate Conference Minister in the Southwest Conference, and has had a long relationship with First Congregational Church Prescott, since her early time serving with her husband Rich at the Chino Valley Community Church (when it was UCC-affiliated) from 1994-2000. Now, she works with clergy and churches in various ways including pastoral transitions, authorizations, best practices, search and call, and faith and leadership formation.

Our worship service will feature a sermon by Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock, music by Alter-Notes, and JJ & Ziggy celebrating the 143rd anniversary of the church.

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.

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. 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. The Eucharist is the topic for this Saturday. Future subjects include the Dead Sea Scrolls, understanding Trans issues, and the prosperity gospel.



CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPT. 22 - BLACK WOMEN PREACHERS VIDEO - NOON - CHURCH OFFICE

SEPT. 23 – ZOOM FAITH FORUM 10AM

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.thelaunchpadteencenter.org/fundraiser/4795850>

RADIO PLAY RETURNS AFTER FOUR YEARS

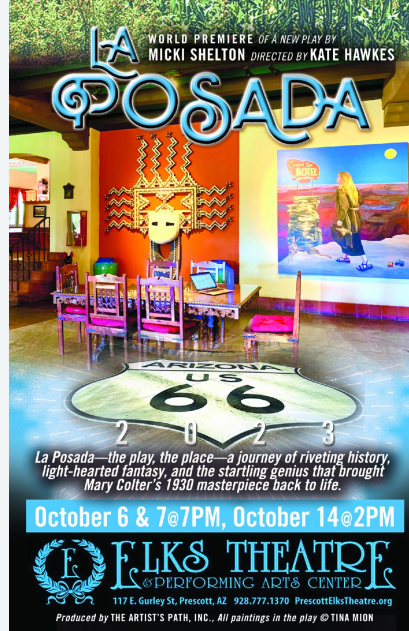
A RADIO DRAMA! Are you an aspiring actor, or have you sometimes thought of being in a play but the thought of memorizing lines scares you half to death? Can you read well in front of an audience? This is your big opportunity!

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**

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.

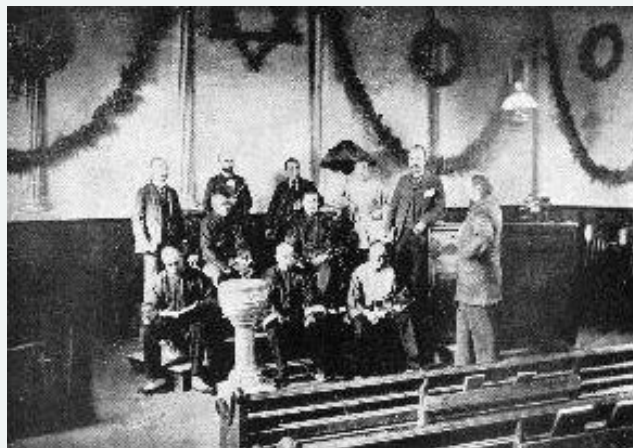
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - HISTORY INFORMATION

From our church historian Jay Eby:

This photograph taken in 1895 is of a Christmas program presented by the young Chinese men from the school organized by Rev. McLean and T. W. Otis to teach the Chinese residents the English language. There was a very long article, I believe, from the Journal Miner that describes this presentation. The photo is taken inside the white frame church building that served our congregation from 1881 until our current building was completed in 1903. We can also date the photo to 1895 since the baptismal font that was dedicated to Rev. Stephen Dubois Demarest was not delivered until just after the school was established. The kerosene lamps are still in place and the Women's Fellowship replaced them in 1896 with electric lamps. It is Christmas time and the greens are hung, and they include a Star of David. The church pews that are still in use around our church are in the photo also. Although the photo is staged, and not taken during the program, the program was presented inside the First Congregational Church. The school was held in a building down on Granite Creek. Not in the church building on Knob Hill. Since the east and west walls of that building have windows this is evidently the north wall and Brother Otis is leaning on the organ. The men standing from left to right are Charlie Jan Wan, Rev. Thomas D. McLean, two that I do not know, Joe Ah Jew, and Theodore C. Otis. These Chinese men are, believe, the sponsors of the school and not students. These are well known merchants in Prescott and these young men would not have been able to

attend classes without their sponsorship. The pressure within their own community and the larger community would not have allowed it if Brother Otis and Rev. McLean had not enlisted their help. The newspaper lists some of the students, but I do not know how to place them. They are Lon Slang, Kim Sam, Chen Chang, Lou Dick, and Quin Long Hing. Rev. Mclean says that as many as twenty students attended the school, but the average attendance is ten each day. The newspaper says thirty-five. There were other persons involved in the instruction at the school that are not mentioned. There is a letter from a person that believe to be a son of Rev.

McLean's. The Rev. Dr. C.F. Parker's article was published in the Arizona Highways magazine in September 1941. Yee Fook Tang, Charlie Jan Wan, Fong Fee Murphy, and Tony Wang Wook are listed on the roles as members of the First Congregational Church. Lister & Lister say that Joe Ah Jew was a convert to Christianity. Fong Murphy and Hee Long after a visit to China were held at San Francisco until letters were sent by our own Moses Hazeltine and others to affect their return to Prescott.



First Congregational Church was founded September 26, 1880. The first building was dedicated on November 27, 1881, at a cost of \$3200. The current building – 216 East Gurley Street - was dedicated on June 26, 1905. The congregation has always sought to follow Jesus in caring for and about those on the margins of society. In 1900, members of this congregation taught English to the Chinese railroad workers here in Prescott after the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Our commitment to education led our pastor and members to help in the founding of Prescott College. The congregation joined the United Church of Christ denomination after its formation.

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. 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 person, 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.

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 143RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH

September 24, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Sweet By and By"--arr. Pepper Choplin

Mark Achuff

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

Alter-Notes

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:

Morgan Greenwald

We gather, looking back to see the paths taken, looking forward to see our path ahead.

We honor those who have gone before us, learning from their successes and failures.

We celebrate who we are today and welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.

We gather to worship God, the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) Prayer

Morgan Greenwald

L: God of Peace, may we live with peace in our hearts. May we live with peace in our homes.

P: May we be bearers of peace to our neighborhood and community.

L: May we be builders of peace in our nation.

P: We pray for peace in every nation, in every city and village, in every neighborhood.

L: Prince of Peace, we cannot pray for peace without justice.

P: We cannot pray for peace without mercy. We cannot pray for peace without love.

L: May we seek justice that restores; may we seek justice for the oppressed,

P: For all who are on the margins.

L: May we grant mercy as you have given us mercy; may we forgive as we have been forgiven,

P: May we see each other's humanity; may we see the face of Christ in each other.

L: May we love our neighbor as ourselves; may we welcome strangers as friends.

P: Spirit of Peace, descend upon us, mold our hearts to be full of your love.

L: May we seek peace and pursue it. May we bring peace in all we do.

P: May we speak peace in all we say. May we be peace to each other. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Exodus 33:7, 11-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Morgan Greenwald

Sermon: "Being Church On the Edge of the Inside" Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock

Anthem: "Sweet Harmony" by Pepper Choplin Alter-Notes

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer Pastor Jay

Life-Giving God, thank you for sustaining this congregation for 143 years – through world wars and pandemics; a depression and recessions; through pastors and people coming and going – Christ has built the church. Empowering God, thank you for the long history of love and inclusion by this church family – teaching English in our sanctuary to Chinese railroad workers in the late 1890's; including sand paintings as we built our fellowship hall in the 1950's to honor the original owners of our land; hosting the Jewish temple until they had a building of their own; helping to found Prescott College; joining the United Church of Christ in 1957 and celebrating that we are all one in Christ; embracing civil rights and equal rights; becoming an Open and Affirming congregation, fully welcoming LGBTQ+ persons; supporting DACA students; engaging in anti-racism efforts and education; and placing our rainbow doors and banner out front, bringing love and hope to many who pass by. God of the future, lead us to follow the way of Jesus, seeking a just world for all persons and creation...

*Hymn: "In the Midst of New Dimensions" New Century Hymnal #391 (Verses 1-3)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts Pastor Jay

Offertory: "An Early American Folk Hymn"--Gilbert M. Martin Mark Achuff

*Doxology Mark Achuff

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 Morgan Greenwald

God, we thank you for this place provided for us 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. Bless this offering. Amen.

*Song: "Go, Make a Difference" Sing! Prayer and Praise #199

*Benediction Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "To God Be the Glory"--arr. Mark Hayes Mark Achuff

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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