

A Message from Pastor Jay

140TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - SEPTEMBER 27

While we remain closed to worship in our sanctuary on Sundays, the following anniversary events are planned:

On Thursday, September 24, we will record a virtual worship service in celebration of our church's 140th anniversary, with guest speaker The Rev. Dr. William Lyons, UCC Southwest Conference Minister. The virtual worship service will be available to view on Sunday morning, the 27th. Also on Sunday September 27, we will offer an in-person modified worship/fellowship service to be held in our church parking lot with people wearing masks and practicing safe distancing. Bring your umbrella for shade! Chairs will be placed in the parking lot for seating. No cars will be in the lot. The time will be 10:00am. The church building will also be open for you to tour. Historical items will be placed on tables in Perkins Hall for you to come through and see. It is also a chance to see the refurbished floor in Perkins Hall.

A general open house for all who wish to tour the church and view the historical items will be held from noon until 2:00 pm on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Based on the wishes of those present on September 27, a World Communion Sunday parking lot worship may be held on October 4th, also at 10:00am. More details to follow as that date approaches.

This Sunday's virtual service features Brian and Jane C. with musical selections. The texts are Joshua 3-4. The sermon title appropriate to our current experience: "We Have Not Crossed This Way Before." JJ will somehow show how to cross the Jordan River.

Stay safe and give and receive grace,

Jay

BULLETIN

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20,
2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Just Peace Sunday

Prelude: “O God of Love, O God of Peace” by Henry W. Baker
(1861 – public domain) NCH#571

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Welcome to Just Peace Sunday - Pastor Jay

This morning’s worship calls us to continue on a course of justice and peace laid down in the foundational story of Exodus, the aspirational words of the prophets, the teachings and passion of Jesus, the courage of the apostles and the faith ministry of the Church. Just Peace isn’t a destination, but the path to the prophet’s envisioned “Beloved Community”. The challenge is to faithfully examine ourselves, our community and our culture for the thorns of racial inequity and economic injustice that choke off the sprouting harvest of God’s Spirit. We need to sort the seed from the thistle. Our need for justice and peace is as urgent today as in the Pharaoh’s brick yards of Exodus.

Call to Worship – Jane Cheek

We keep sabbath, during this strange season of the Coronavirus, in uncomfortable new ways: in masks or by digital devices; without handshakes or hugs. But the Church has survived wars and pandemics, financial crisis and civil unrest, relying on the promise that wherever two or more gather in the name of Christ, there the Spirit of Christ will be found. It’s times like these, the Spirit is most needed. The works not done; God’s reign’s not yet come. So, let’s gather in the name of Jesus. Let’s proclaim it from our pulpits, whisper into our masks, sing it in front of our computers and know that all over the world the Spirit of God is molding us... shaping us... recreating us into the Body of Christ.

Choral Call to Worship: “All Are Welcome” by Marty Haugen
(Verse 1)

Prayer of Confession – Jane Cheek

We are all born into cultural currents that reward some and penalizes others, merely for the color of their skin. Some of us

benefit from generations of accumulated wealth. Others of us stagger under the burden of generations of racial oppression, discrimination, and bias. Where I've felt welcome...others felt shut out. Where I was invited to join...others were told they didn't belong. Where others have been willing to invest in me... Other's gifts have been consistently undervalued. Where I've been asked to share my thoughts...others have been told to keep quiet. Where I've found opportunity...others have run into barricades. For over 200 years, this country has struggled to live up to the aspirational equality written into our founding documents. For over 2000 years, the Church has struggled to live into the promise of the Gospel's Beloved Community. It is too easy to swim with the toxic cultural currents that ultimately drown both the oppressed and the privileged in the lie that the value of a person can be determined by the color of their skin. Forgive us for our complicity and collusion to this damaging lie. Redeem us, by stirring up Your Spirit which has turned tides of subjugation, injustice and oppression in days past. Restore in us the determination to join in the holy work of reconciliation by pulling up the pernicious thorns of white supremacy and sowing seeds of economic justice.

Assurance of Pardon – Jane Cheek

Our worth is not determined by how the world judges us or how much the economy values us. Our worth is neither increased or diminish by our deeds, our impairments, our productivity or our failures. Our worth is determined by the price God paid for us; for while we were still sinners Christ died for us and for the world. For God so loves the world that He sent His only Son to die for us. When we confess and repent of our sins God forgives us.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages

JJ

Scripture Reading: Joshua 3 – Jane Cheek

Scripture Reading: Joshua 4, Selected Verses – Pastor Jay

Hymn: "Lead Us from Death to Life" (World Peace Prayer) by Marty Haugen NCH#581

Sermon: "We Have Not Come This Way Before"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "The Harvest of Justice" by David Haas Gather Hymnal #716

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Doxology "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" by Edward H. Plumtre
New Century Hymnal #55

**Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing!**

Prayer of Dedication – Jane
Cheek

**Gracious God and source of all good gifts, thank you for
the resources in our lives, in our community and in
our nation. Thank you for all that we share today to
make our lives, our community and our nation more
welcoming. Bless us in our continued ministries that
seek your peace and justice. Amen.**

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (Reprise) by Sy Miller
Gather Hymnal #723

Benediction – Pastor
Jay

May the Word spoken and heard by us here, now be translated into action as we become the agents of God's Just Peace. Let's actively engage in the creation of God's intended community of racial equity and economic justice; knowing this is what makes God smile. May Christ's example inspire you. May God's Spirit empower you. May God's blessing surround you, rest gently upon you and protect you from the winds of the world's thorns of racism and thistles of injustice.

Postlude: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (Reprise) by Sy Miller
Gather Hymnal #723

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

216 E. Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

SEPTEMBER MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update:

In August, your donations helped to support our **DACA Fund**. Money from this fund assists our “adopted” DACA student, Franceny, and her two brothers, Francisco and Fernando. We have issued checks from this fund to both Franceny and Francisco to help them pay their college tuition expenses. Fernando has earned a full scholarship to Yavapai College in pursuit of his certification in Construction Management.

This month’s mission emphasis in our denomination’s special offering, “**Neighbors in Need**” (NIN). NIN is the UCC’s annual offering to support 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, federal budget priorities, immigration, hate crimes, health care, civil liberties, pollution of our natural environment, and Native American ministries. Check donations can be made payable to the church, with the memo line note, NIN.

Throughout the year, we support multiple mission outreach projects. Programs such as those seeking to provide shelter and homes for those who are poor, homeless, and hungry. Programs such as: [1] The Coalition for Compassion and Justice, [2] Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS), [3] Habitat for Humanity and [4] and the Prescott Area Community Cupboard (PACC). From March 18th – September 4th, PACC helped to provide food for 8,230 people. None of this would be possible without the support you provide through the donation of money and time.

As we do each month, volunteers will be providing an evening meal to the women and children sheltered at PASS. Our next PASS meal will be delivered on Wednesday, October 21st. If you can help, please contact Patty Gard at 928-460-3042 or at gpgard@cableone.net. Carmen Frederic, PASS Executive Director, has extended the

following invitation to our church family: -- Please join us for our 5th Annual Open House on Wednesday, October 28th from 1:00-4:00 P.M. to see the finished construction to the dorm. PASS is located at 336 N. Rush Street, Prescott, AZ 86301.

Both Angela Imbierowicz (PACC team captain) and Patty Gard (PASS team coordinator) extend their thanks to donors and volunteers who make our mission outreach possible.

As always, your mission outreach team (Becky & Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson) thank all of you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

JOSHUA SERMON SERIES

Preaching Through Joshua

- Sept 6 - Joshua 1 - "Crossing Over
- Sept 13 - Joshua 2 - Dealing with Uncontrollable Circumstances
- Sept. 20 - Joshua 3-4 - "We Have Not Passed This Way Before"
- Sept 27 - 140th Anniversary - Rev. Bill Lyons Preaching
- Oct. 4 - Joshua 5 - "Spiritual Preparation"
- Oct. 11 - Joshua 6 - "When God Doesn't Make Sense"
- Oct. 18 - Joshua 7,8,9 - "Deceiving Ourselves"
- Oct. 25 - Joshua 10 - "Choosing to be on God's Side"
- Nov. 1 - Joshua 13-19 - "Saint Caleb"
- Nov. 8 - Joshua 20 - "Finding Refuge"
- Nov. 15 - Joshua 22 - "Opportunities & Obstacles in Times of Change"
- Nov. 22 - Joshua 23-24 - "The Importance of Conviction"

[Text Link](#)

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES THE PROBLEM WITH LIGHT/DARK AESTHETICS

DARK IS GOOD & GODLY

- Nov. 29 - Dark is Good & Godly - "The Via Negativa"
- Dec. 6 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Dealing With White Fragility"
- Dec. 13 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Light Burns & Blinds"
- Dec. 20 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Beyond White Jesus"

TREASURER'S REPORT

8/31/2020

So much has changed since the beginning of the year, and our financial expectations and activities are no exception. At this point in the year (end of August), our budget as approved in January had anticipated that our expenses would now be in excess of \$140,000. In actuality, expenses to-date are \$118,000. Much of this reduced spending is due to the church being closed and because many of our parishioners have stepped up to volunteer for tasks previously done by paid staff. Together we are making this work!

As for income, total receipts to-date are more than \$125,000! Congregational giving remains on target. (THANK YOU!) The loss of income from facility use by outside groups is more than offset by the reduced expenses. The net income to-date is more than \$7,000. Our checking account has a healthy balance in excess of \$30,000.

Just a note about our investments: not surprising, the value did take a large loss in February and March (-\$16,000) but the market bounced back, and that loss is now a gain of \$9,000.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

FCC History

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CELEBRATES 140TH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 26, 1880

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.

First Congregational Church of Prescott, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation. We include all persons without regard to age, race, gender,

sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, or personal ability. We welcome all to share the celebrations and challenges of our congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

CHURCH ZOOM GATHERINGS EACH WEEK

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY - WEDNESDAYS AT 10AM
ZOOM FELLOWSHIP GATHERING - SUNDAYS AT 10AM

If you are not receiving the weekly email invitations, please call the church office:
928-445-4555

[Text Link](#)

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- 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.
- Mail a check out to the church and mail it to 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, however, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services](#)

Here



Celebrating YOU!!!

Anniversaries

WAGNER, Ralph & Susan Lemons	09/05
GILGES, Ralph & Cheryl	09/09
BRYANT, Bill & Becky	09/22
JAQUETTE, Julie & Sandra Johns	09/24
FONE, DJ & Marita Callaway	09/28
GESSERT, Jeni & Ben	10/21
JORDAN, Bruce & Jennifer Cortez	11/11
OSBORN, Alex & Jane	11/11
STEVEN, Ritch & Janet	11/23
MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis & Barbara	11/27

Birthdays

BROUSSARD, Suzanne	09/06
DINSMAN, Christy	09/07
MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis	09/09
MACY, Tom	09/14
MATSUMOTO, Yoichi	09/18
RELTH, Arlene	09/22
WILSON, John	09/28
KAUL, Linda	09/29
GILGES, Ralph	10/09
GATES, Melissa	10/13
MONSKA, Paul	10/13
DEVILLE, Dave	10/15
FOOTE, David	10/17
GATES, Elizabeth	10/21
LOBAUGH, Hal	10/22
LOBAUGH, Suzy	10/23
MCFADDEN, Michele	10/24
LANTRIP, Patty	10/25
GARRISON, Marti	11/01
JOHNS, Sandra	11/01
MCCURDY, Julie	11/01
STAATS, Debbie	11/01
GALE, Nancy	11/03
PROHASKA, Carolyn	11/10
ELY, Judy	11/11
ROUSE, Bill	11/15
WALLACE, Andrew	11/18
HUFF, John	11/23
WILSON, Fay	11/24
TAYLOR, Josh	11/25
BRADSTREET, Bob	11/28
LINSON, Bill	11/28
CICHON, Patti	12/03
MCCURDY, John	12/03
WILDMAN, Tommie	12/06
LINSON, Carole Sue	12/08
BERMAN, Helaine	12/15
WILCHER, Jay	12/17
NORUM, Pete	12/18
EBY, Jay	12/24
STEPHENS, Don	12/25