

## 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 Rev. Bill Lyons as guest preacher. Bill is our conference minister. Carole Sue and Brian provide musical selections. Long-time member Anne Solt will serve as liturgist. Jay Eby will provide some history of the church for our 140th celebration. And JJ jumps in the baptismal font desiring to be baptized, which leads to a history lesson about our font and pastors.

Stay safe, and give and receive grace,

Jay

## BULLETIN

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 27,  
2020

## **GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church

Prelude: "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" New Century Hymnal  
#393  
Melody by Lowell Mason 1845 Brian Moore

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 24:7-10) - Ann  
Solt

Since by the grace of God and under God's good providence this house of worship has been provided to us as a house of God, and a house of prayer for God's people, we gather to celebrate the 2016 renovation project.

Peace be to this house and all who enter. May God bless our coming in and our going out. I was glad when they said to me, "let us go to the house of the Lord." Let us worship God! □

Choral Call to Worship: "No Matter" by Roger P. Miller

## **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Scripture: Isaiah 43 : 1-3; 10-12; 18-19  
Pastor Jay

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-6  
Anne  
Solt

Hymn - "Jesus is Calling" by F. S. Shephard 1898  
Carole Sue Linson & Brian Moore

Sermon: "On the Leading Edge" Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Church History – Jay Eby

## Litany of Dedication - Pastor Jay

For the worship of God through breaking bread and breaking open the Word. For the worship of God through gathering the beloved community, and pouring the baptismal waters,

**We dedicate this building.**

For nurturing children and parents, for their inspiration and protection, for encouraging young people to wrestle with Truth, and calling them to a life of justice and mercy,

**We dedicate this church.**

For the reverent silence into which your still-speaking voice emerges, and for our voices woven together in a tapestry of prayer and song, for the drum's boom, the organ's drama, and the piano's cascade of notes,

**We dedicate this building.**

For working with partners to dismantle systems that foster racism and heterosexism, for transforming desires that breed materialism, economic injustice, environmental degradation, and violence,

**We dedicate this church.**

For joining hands with others to break down barriers of religion, race, class, and politics, for building up the beloved community in Jesus Christ: one family, no insiders or outsiders, each person's gifts recognized, affirmed, and nurtured,

**We dedicate this church.**

For comfort to those who mourn, and refuge to those fleeing violence, for guidance to those who are lost, and sustenance to those who thirst, for all people who seek a soft place to land, a place of welcome, a home,

**We dedicate this church.**

For the continued unfolding of your vision, and for our continued worship of you, and for justice, kindness, and humility to be shared from this place.

**We dedicate this building.**

**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 those 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 – Pastor Jay

Offertory - "Blessed Name" by Mary McDonald – Carole Sue Linson

Prayer of Dedication – Anne Solt

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for past gifts of money, time, and talent that have brought us through 140 years of life as a church. All glory and honor are yours. Bless these gifts we bring today and enable us to continue doing your will into our future ministry here; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation" New Century Hymnal #386

Carole Sue Linson & Brian Moore

Benediction – Pastor Jay

Micah 6:8 - what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Postlude - "More Like Jesus" J. M. Stillman 1879 – Carole Sue Linson

**First Congregational Church of Prescott  
United Church of Christ**

216 E. Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

[www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org)

[www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott](https://www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott)

928-445-4555

**Founded September 26, 1880**

**Serving the Church**

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons, Southwest Conference UCC Minister

Worship Leader Anne Solt

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

Bell Choir Director Carole Sue Linson

Moderator Rev. Ralph Wagner

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>, 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, September 16<sup>th</sup>. If you can help provide a main dish or dessert, please contact Patty Gard at 928-460-3042 or at [ppgard@cablone.net](mailto:ppgard@cablone.net). Carmen Frederic, PASS Executive Director, has extended the following invitation to our church family: -- Please join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 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 140<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## CHURCH CLOSED THROUGH OCTOBER

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**The church Cabinet decided at its September 24 meeting to remain closed through October and continue to worship virtually. Parking lot gatherings may continue as weather permits. Check the Parish Caller each week for details. Toward the end of October, decisions will be**

made based on the spread of the virus.

[Text Link](#)

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://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