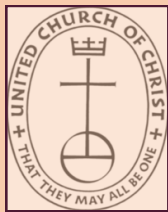


The Parish Caller

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

September 25, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



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This Week at First Congregational Church of Prescott...

- ◆ **Men's Barbeque** Friday (tonight) at 6:30
- ◆ **Choir Practice** 9 am before Worship Service
- ◆ **Exploring Faith** ON HOLD TILL FURTHER NOTICE
- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Monday Night Discussion Group at 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Knit Wits** From 1-3 on Tuesday
- ◆ **P.I.E.** at 5:30 pm Wednesday
- ◆ **Caring for Creation** at 6:30 pm Wednesday
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** 11 am Thursday

From Pastor Jay

Did you see the article by our recent conference minister and current United Church of Christ General Minister and President, the Rev. John Dorhauer in the Huffington Post? Here is a quote from the article:

Climate Change is the great moral crisis of our time. Nothing demonstrates religion's irrelevance in our time more than its unwillingness or inability to fully engage the power of its agency to have already compelled its followers to live differently. Religion's complicity with the privilege of wealth and status, coupled with the consumptive habits of its adherents who live with an ethos of acquisitiveness, has conspired to render religion utterly useless to do what it was built to do: prevent the greatest injustice and resulting disaster this planet has ever known.

There is going to come a time when my grandchild is going to ask me: "What did you know; and when did you know it." There will be little to say in response. I chose not to know what was there to be known until it was too late. It would be very easy for me, a liberal who is the leader of one of religion's most progressive institutions, to point the finger at climate deniers from other religious traditions and blame them for the great cover up.

But, a.) that hides the bitter truth about my and my church's responsibility for doing too little too late; just enough, really, to afford us the opportunity to point the finger at someone else and once again feel self-righteous about what we did; and b.) it doesn't matter: when your ship is sinking and all the inhabitants aboard it are dying it doesn't do any good to convene a task force to figure out who's to blame.

This may be our greatest test of faith. Can we conspire to solve the justice issue that will trump all others? If we don't solve this one, every other justice issue will cease to be a justice issue before too long as the planet rejects and ejects from it every species this evolutionary cycle has produced, in order to heal itself and make way for others millions of years from now.

We are burning down the house. We are acting like we don't know or don't care. If that doesn't change soon, I and my religion's allies are even more irrelevant than the millennials think we are.

The visit of the pope has brought much attention to our care of the planet. I will be preaching on "why we care about the environment" Sunday, and then on Wednesday at 6:30 pm, we will host a forum on caring for creation — Peter Pierson, of Prescott Creeks and a Graduate Fellow with Prescott College, will explore with us the motivations behind communities of faith and their members being involved in conservation and environmental efforts in our community and beyond. We'll look at the religious roots of both our environmental problems and the hope of restoring our natural areas and ecosystems and open a discussion around opportunities for rewarding work and advocacy.

Continued on page 2

From Pastor Jay

From Pastor Jay

Continued from page 1

Join us as we explore this timely subject.

On another note, I visited with Lil Jorgenson in Scottsdale this past week. A long-time faithful member and first woman moderator of our church, she was moved to hear about the congregation and also our appreciation for her. This picture was taken during my visit.



God Bless, Jay

From SWC, Holly Herman

ADMINISTRATION IS MISSION! (condensed version)

By: Holly Herman

The SWC is a setting of the United Church of Christ (UCC) — just like the local church, the national office, a UCC seminary, or the Beatitudes Campus are “settings.” Settings are all places where ministry happens. And each setting is independent and interdependent on the rest of the settings. This “covenant” system enables us all to do the things we do best.

Because we are an Administrative office, it’s sometimes hard to see that what we do is ministry. We might not hand out meals to the hungry or shelter the homeless like many of our churches do, but what we do makes it easier for local churches to do these hands-on types of work.

- ◆ Our Conference Minister is a pastor to your pastor and to all the other active and retired pastors in our area—over 200 of them!
- ◆ The SWC is charged with authorization, training, and oversight of clergy.
- ◆ The SWC and COCAM investigate allegations of misconduct by our authorized clergy.
- ◆ The SWC assists churches in crisis.
- ◆ The SWC assists churches in search for a new pastor.
- ◆ The SWC offers space for new churches to grow and other ministries to happen.
- ◆ The SWC interacts ecumenically and proactively in the wider community to bring our voice to any current issue or discussion.
- ◆ The SWC acts as a liaison between the national offices and the local church to bring you information, programs, resources, funding, and investments.
- ◆ The SWC tries to provide opportunities for education for leaders in the church and for youth and young adults.
- ◆ The SWC sponsors youth activities and provides a summer camp for kids from second grade through High School.
- ◆ Annually, the SWC hosts the Annual Meeting where members from across the conference meet to make decisions, worship, and learn.
- ◆ The SWC attempts to be a hub of communication to the churches.

The SWC is funded through your donations to OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission). The goal is for every church to work toward 10% of its income as a tithe to the conference. The SWC in turn sends 25% of OCWM to the national setting to support its mission and ministry among us. We ask for donations to two special funds each year: Sow the Seed and Spread the Word. Sow the Seed provides scholarship funds so kids can attend camp and national and local youth events. Spread the Word provides funds to be used to support new and renewing churches within the conference.

We hope you see the value in our mission. And even though your particular church may not be “getting what it paid for” every month or year, some other church in the conference is. And that’s being a denomination — an organization that pitches in to support the whole. And, sooner or later, the SWC will help your church when it needs it — and we’ll be here for you — surrounded by the other SWC churches.

From the Southwest
Conference

Get the SWC “In the
Loop” Newsletter:
[www.swcucc.org/
intheloop/](http://www.swcucc.org/intheloop/)

New Southwest Conference Minister

Dear Colleagues and Churches of the SWC,

It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I inform you that the SWC Executive Board has unanimously called the Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons as our Designated Conference Minister. Dr. Lyons is scheduled to be in place to begin his ministry with us on January 1, 2016.

Bill, his preferred name, comes to us with 30 years of pastoral experience. He is currently the pastor of St. John’s U.C.C. in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he has served for the past 11 years. He was ordained in the U.C.C. on October 13, 1985. A more extensive bio will be in tomorrow’s In the Loop newsletter.

While he will officially be on board in January, Bill will be present in the SWC for two significant meetings: the Mission Planning Meeting (October 24) and the Clergy Retreat (November 9 – 11). It is my hope that his presence at these two pivotal meetings will encourage the attendance of those eligible.

I would be remiss not to thank both the Search Committee and the Executive Board for their intense and diligent work during this search process. Special thanks is extended to Dana Bender, the Chair of the Search Committee; to Holly Herman, the SWC Office Manager; and to the Rev. Dr. Lee Albertson, the SWC Acting Conference Minister.

I also want to thank each of you in advance for your continued support for our Southwest Conference and the United Church of Christ. As we step into the future, let us do so in the belief that God is already there waiting to greet us in Jesus’ Name.

Shalom, George A. Ault, SWC Moderator

What’s Happening

Men’s Barbecue

Men's Barbecue...

Today, Sept. 25th Brent Walker's house at 6 pm, bring items for potluck. If anyone has questions please call Brent Walker: Home [928-778-2144](tel:928-778-2144) Cell [928-899-8283](tel:928-899-8283). 1209 Overstreet Drive, Prescott.

Prescott Community
Cupboard Donations

September Food Donations to Prescott Food Pantry...

This month we are asking for canned fruit. there are baskets at each entry for your donations. Thank You!

Exploring Faith

Exploring Faith

- ◆ **Monday Night Discussion Group:** meets at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. The topic is **Genesis**.
- ◆ **Sunday Morning Class:** IS ON HOLD FOR NOW UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

P.I.E. &
Caring for Creation

P.I.E. & Caring for Creation

Wednesday the 30th of September we have special P.I.E. event planned. We will have our meal at 5:30 pm as always, and then at 6:30 a forum on environmental issues will begin. Children will meet downstairs with Bret and Destiny for a special earth activity at this time.

Caring for Creation will be hosting the forum and Peter Pierson of Prescott Creeks will help us explore what motivates us to care for creation, then he will lead us in a discussion of where we want to focus our environmental efforts. This event is promoted to the community and all are welcome to come and join us for this event!

Receiving New
Members

We Will Be Receiving New Members October 18th...

If you would like to become a member of the First Congregational Church, please see Pastor Jay.

National Coming Out Day

National Coming Out Day, hosted by PFLAG...

October 10th at Granite Peak U.U. Congregation from 5-9 pm

- DJ Mojave — Music and Dancing
- Free Admission
- Free Carnival Games
- LGBTQ+ History Timeline
- Fun for all Ages
- Food & Extra Games available for purchase

Funky Friday Game Night

Funky Friday Game Night Hosted by PFLAG...

Starting in November, the first Friday of every month at 7-9 pm, PFLAG will be hosting a **Funky Friday Game Night** here at the church. This is a night for LGBTQ+ advocates and allies to get together and have a good ol' funky time! There will be popcorn and refreshments available for a suggested donation to help raise funds for PFLAG. The first game night was a big success and a lot of fun!

Ongoing & Weekly Events

EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS
Sunday Morning Class IS ON
HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
~And~

Monday Evening Discussion
Group meets at 6:30 pm in the
Church Library

CHOIR PRACTICE meets
Sundays at 9 am in the
Sanctuary. See Jane
Osborn if you would like
to join the choir!

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
at 11 am on Thursdays

**P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat) Family
Night** meets every Wednesday
night starting September 16th at
5:30 pm in Perkins Hall.

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY
meets the 4th Tuesday of
every month from 2-4 pm in
the Office Conference
Room. If you are interested
in being part of this
ministry, see Marilyn
Kerstine.

KNIT WITS
meets the 1st &
3rd Tuesdays of
every month
from 1-3 pm in
the Office
Conference
Room.

PASS MEAL is a once-a-month ministry
where we provide a meal for the
Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd
Wednesday of every month at 5:30
pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

**Funky Friday
Game Night**
Hosted by PFLAG
Everyone
Welcome! 7-9 pm
1st Friday of the
Month starting
November

LAS FUENTES
1035 Scott Dr., Prescott
SPIRITUAL LIVING Class is held the
3rd Thursday of every month at
10 am, led by Called to Care
Ministry.
~And~
Worship Service is also held the
2nd Sunday of every month at 3
pm, led by Pastor Jay.

First Congregational Church, UCC

216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com
Administration Office Hours
Mondays: 1:00 - 4:00
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00
Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday
9:00 - Noon
Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

**PFLAG SUPPORT
GROUP** meets the
3rd Friday of every
month at 6:30 pm in
the Church Library.
See Julie J. for more
details.

CABINET MEETING
meets the 4th
Thursday of every
month at 6:30 pm in
the Office
Conference Room.