



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

"NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE."

Join us this Sunday for our Annual Church Wide Sunday Brunch -- Bring a Brunch Dish to Share, we eat right after worship service.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH!

Michele McFadden grew up in Scottsdale, spent much of her life in California, and moved to Prescott in 2001. In California, she is a member of First Christian Church of Orange/Disciples of Christ where she raised her two kids, Colin 38 and Molly 29. All three are graduates of Chapman University. Michele was a language arts textbook writer and editor while raising her kids. She was also an activist with organizations such as The Alliance for Survival and The Great Peace March. Her focus these days is writing plays under the name Micki Shelton. Her play *Fred and Mary* was part of Arizona's Centennial Celebration here in 2012. Michele hopes to use her skill as a playwright to effect positive change. As part of that, she's seeking a creative theatre to premier her challenging new play, *Discovery*, the focus of which is *The [lost] Gospel of Judas*. She's also busy writing three new full-length plays.



Linda C. Kaul is originally from New Jersey, but as an "army brat and navy wife," she has lived in 15 states and 2 other countries. She graduated from the University of North Texas. Linda has been married 45 years to Charles Kaul, and they have 3 children and a pair of "adorable identical twin granddaughters." She retired after working as an ESL instructor, marketing coordinator, and other positions sprinkled throughout all the years moving from place to place. She enjoys pickleball, reading, and volunteering.

Barbara McCollough was born in Hobbs, New Mexico, grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, and attended San Jose State. Dennis McCollough was born in Prineville, Oregon, grew up in Southern California, and attended U.C. Berkeley. They have 3 sons. They moved to Irvine, California in 1978 where Dennis worked as an architect and Barbara in interior design. They moved to Prescott in 2018. Dennis is an artist, enjoys the cowboy poets gathering, and is on his HOA architectural committee. Barbara is a volunteer at the hospital, and enjoys playing bridge, gardening, and RV trips around Arizona.

Veronica Sepe was born July, 20, 1981 in Rochester, NY. She graduated from Edison Tech in 1999. She joined the Army and served for 2.5 years. Veronica moved back to Rochester. In 2007, she re-enlisted in the Army. She did 2 tours to Iraq. Her daughter Persephone was born September, 27 2011. Veronica was honorable discharged February 2014. She moved to Phoenix, AZ to attend Universal Technical Institute, and moved to Prescott at the end of February of this year.

SERVING THE CHURCH

CABINET Nomination/Volunteers are once again needed for our NEXT year openings. We only have two or three openings that need filling, as the other members are continuing with their term or volunteering for another year because THEY WANT TO!! PLEASE CONSIDER.....

OPENINGS:

Co-Moderator, term ended, Patty Lantrip

Treasurer, replace Staci Robbins

Welcoming - **open (no one serving as chair)**

REMAINING ON BOARD:

Co-Moderator - Ralph Wagner; Secretary - Suzanne Boussard; Ed Ministry - Marti Garrison; Called to Care - Co Chair Natalie Brummer/Harry Strong; Physical Resources - Ralph Gilges; Outreach - Gary Gard/Bill Bryant

Members At Large - Sandra Johns & Natalie Brummer

PERFECTIONISTS, ATTENTION:

The church is in need of volunteers to process the weekly offering. This occurs on Mondays, takes about two hours, and includes: Retrieve the offering from the safe; 2) Count and record checks and cash; 3) Deposit in the bank; 4) Return from the bank trying to be humble after doing a perfect job.

Introduction to **Compassionate Communication** Find your voice, speak your truth & listen deeply

Would you like to be able to hear others and speak your mind in a clear and kind way without needing to be defensive or go on the attack? Find more ease in everyday conversations. Stay focused on what really matters to you and listen for the concerns behind others' words.

Saturday, October 19th
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the
First Congregational Church
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott

Facilitators Rachel Garmon and Sharon Seymour have been immersed in Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication practice since 2004, attending workshops and retreats, and facilitating classes and practice groups. They bring a lively, 'jump right in' style to their teaching. Take home skills you can use right now.

Donations to support the work of the facilitators welcomed.

Stay informed about this and other such events at
nvcarizona.org

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE

A written series on homosexuality and the Bible and Christianity focusing on "What the Bible Really says about Gay Christians May Surprise You!" (Rev. Dr. William Lyons, UCC Southwest conference minister) and "Homosexuality and the Bible" by Walter Wink, (professor of biblical interpretation)

Rev. Lyons: "There is no test to determine whether someone is a Christian. Rather, experiential Christians 'affirm that the Path of Jesus is found wherever love of God, neighbor and self are practiced together.'" (Elmes, 2006)

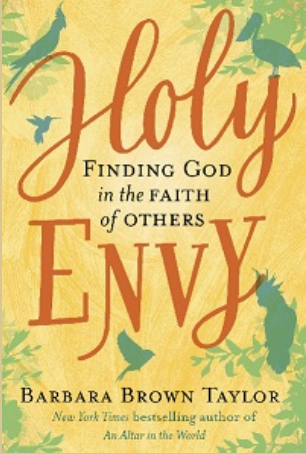
Professor Wink: "There is no Biblical sex ethic. Instead, it exhibits a variety of sexual mores, some of which changed over the thousand-year span of biblical history....The Bible knows only a love ethic, which is constantly being brought to bear on whatever sexual mores are dominant in any given country, or culture, or period."

Stay tuned for more detailed and in-depth summaries in the Caller by these and other scholars. Please respond with your comments to Marti Garrison, garrisonmarti@gmail.com



HOLY ENVY: FINDING GOD IN THE FAITH OF OTHERS
by Barbara Brown Taylor

In the final chapter of *Holy Envy*, as she winds down her book of recollections of 20 years of teaching World Religions at Piedmont College, Barbara Brown Taylor writes this: “I have added a question about *holy envy* to the final exam: A respected religious scholar named Krister Stendahl once formulated three rules for religious understanding that include ‘make room for *holy envy*.’ What inspired *holy envy* in you this semester?”



One student wrote: “*I love the notion that karma is not judged or measured by a higher power; you are responsible for your own actions. Whether I decide to believe in a religion or not, I will keep this moral code of self-accountability with me.*”

Another student says she has been inspired by the writings of the Dalai Lama: “*I envy his deep belief in compassion and genuine love for all humanity. I wish Christians would focus on being more compassionate instead of feeling like they have to correct everyone else.*”

Barbara also answers that “final exam question” for herself: “Spending extended amounts of time inside other religious worldviews has loosened the screws on my own, which is beginning to seem like a good thing. Disowning God has been a great help to me. Owning my distinct view of God has helped me understand it much better. Although I can see the places where religious truth claims collide, this does not bother me as much as it could. I am far more interested in how people live than in what they believe. When other Christians threaten or disappoint me, I work as hard to see God in them as in people of other (or no) faiths. It helps to remember that these are often the same Christians whom I threaten and disappoint in equal measure. The only clear line I draw these days is this: when my religion tries to come between me and my neighbor, I will choose my neighbor. That self-canceling feature of my religion is one of the things I like best about it. Jesus never commanded me to love my religion.”

GROWING IN OUR FAITH. 1) What is one of the features YOU LIKE BEST about Christianity (or the faith you claim as your own)? 2) What is one of the features of Christianity (or the faith you claim as your own) that gives you discomfort or you would change if you could? 3) Do you feel Christians sometimes put too much emphasis on *right beliefs* and not enough on *right practice*? 4) Are you afraid the “truths” you might glimpse in other religions could crowd up against some of your own? Is it possible that the box you have been keeping God in would have to become larger or grow windows, but that could be a good thing?

(During the month of October, Marti Garrison, 928-231-7664, and Harry Strong, 719-291-0779, would like to invite members and friends of FCC/UCC to discuss these and other questions about **Finding God in the Faith of Others**.

Please contact Marti or Harry if you would like to continue this conversation.)



JUDAISM CLASS:

We have had a large show of support for holding a class on Judaism for non-Jews! We begin October 3rd at 11:00 a.m. in Perkins Hall. This will be a time to discover and understand the discipline and traditions of Judaism.



VIDEO OF SUNDAY SERVICES: After the success of our fundraising for our sound system, we are moving on to raising funds to be able to video the worship service each Sunday and have it online - please designate for “video” if you would like to donate.

WE HAVE COLLECTED \$1,650 SO FAR!



COSTUMES FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: include 3 kings, 2 shepherds, Mary, Joseph and an angel. If you are interested in helping to supply some material please call Melissa (207-391-3276) first to find out color, design, type of material and quantity.

Schedule for “It’s a Wonderful Life” Radio Play

PH=Perkins Hall, S=Sanctuary

Sat, Oct 12, 1pm - Fun read-through of script for anyone interested.

- AUDITIONS: Fri, Oct 25, 6-7 pm and Sat, Oct 26, 10:00 am - Noon (S)
- Sat, Oct 26, by 4pm Call/Email to actors “will you accept this role?”
- Sun, Oct 27, 10:30 am Roles announced at church; (SCRIPTS available to actors with directions for dramatic reading)
- *[Schedule times to rehearse with SFX live, SFX recorded & audio, & organ]*
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- Sat, Nov 2, 10am - Noon, Script and directions to actors - First read-through (PH)
- Sat, Nov 9, 10am - 12 Noon Scripts to actors -read through (S)

[change this to Sanctuary and practice with Microphones & assigned seats]

Offer that anyone who wants additional help can meet Monday, Nov 11, 6pm

- *Wed. November 13, 6pm - 7pm Live & Recorded Sound Effects & music*
- Sat, Nov 16, 9:30 am LIVE & RECORDED SFX QUICK RUN-THROUGH (S)
- Sat, Nov 16, 10:00 am - NoonFULL REHEARSAL (S)
- Sun, Nov 17, 12:30 pm DRESS REHEARSAL with Audience (S)
- Tue, Nov 19, 6 - 7pm, FULL REHEARSAL, IF NEEDED (S))
- Wed, Nov 20, 7pm: PERFORMANCE (pls be in Perkins Hall 6:30) (S)



It's a Wonderful Life

Wednesday November 20, 2019

7:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
216 E. Gurley St.

ADMISSION IS FREE

ANNIVERSARIES

William & Rebecca
Bryant 09/22
Janet & Ritch Steven
11/23

BIRTHDAYS

John Wilson 09/28
Destiny Hoitt 09/29
Ralph Gilges 10/09
Melissa Gates 10/13
Paul Monska 10/13
Dave Deville 10/15
David Foote 10/17
Elizabeth Gates 10/21
Harold Lobaugh 10/22
Suzy Lobaugh 10/23
Patty Lantrip 10/25
Marilyn Eby 10/28
Marti Garrison 11/01
Sandra Johns 11/01
Julie Mccurdy 11/01
Debbie Staats 11/01
Carolyn Prohaska 11/10
Judy Ely 11/11
Bill Rouse 11/15
Andrew Wallace 11/18
John Huff 11/23
Fay Wilson 11/24
Bob Bradstreet 11/28
Bill Linson 11/28
Patti Cichon 12/03
John Mccurdy 12/03
Carole Sue Linson 12/08
Sandra Talbot 12/08
Randy Jay Wilcher
12/17
Pete Norum 12/18
Jay Eby 12/24



EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION

We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.

MONTHLY COMMUNION

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

PASS MEAL

Once a month, we provide a meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.

CHANCEL SINGERS

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.

ALTER-NOTES

We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary

Dillan Osborn 12/25
Don Stephens 12/25

Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after
“Children’s Time”.