

The Parish Caller

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

September 4, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



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This Week at First Congregational Church of Prescott...

- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Monday Night Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm
- ◆ **"Caring for Creation"** planning meeting meets Wednesday at 4 pm
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** resumes at 11 am this Thursday
- ◆ **Choir Practice** meets 9 am before Worship Service

From Pastor Jay

In our ever changing church environment, and as all churches navigate their way through uncharted waters, many times the way we used to do things no longer works. One of those slowly dying traditions is the old committee structure in the church. Gone are the days when members were willing to serve on committees. To test this truth, just ask someone to commit to a three year term on "X" committee and watch their facial expression! So, one current strategy is to replace the top-down model of forcing a structure on the congregation with a more organic one. This can look many ways, but one idea is to let ministries and programs "bubble up" from the gifts and interests of members of the congregation. Two recent examples can be found in our church.

Tawnya Worthington expressed a desire for us to have activities for the whole family rather than separating the parents and children. And she was willing to work to make it happen. Thus was born our Wednesday night family gathering called "P.I.E." – "Play, Inspire, Eat." Beginning September 16th, we will gather on Wednesday nights for ten weeks to share a meal, play and learn together as a church family.

Chuck Budinger has been attending our church regularly for the past months. He has an interest in helping us develop an environmental ministry. He works as an Environmental Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Transportation. So, we set up an initial meeting at church and Chuck discovered our own Jay Eby helped establish Prescott Creeks and provides a wealth of knowledge of local environmental efforts. Also attending the meeting because he saw our Facebook posting was Peter Pierson of Prescott Creeks! John McCurdy also works with Prescott College with their environmental concerns. There are others interested in this area, so it has "bubbled up" and gained some traction. A meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 30th at 6:30 p.m. to begin our journey into environmental ministry.

Allowing things to organically happen does not solve everything, of course. Allowance for failure has to be granted, and some things naturally run their course and need to be allowed to die. And some things need to be done whether there is any energy for them or not, but it sure helps when people discover their gifts and interests and put their energies in those areas. Theologian Frederick Buechner has written that "Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world's greatest need." If God is nudging you to get involved in a particular ministry or way, let me know. We are open and affirming here! Blessings, Pastor Jay

Letters to Josh Taylor...

Military personal can receive letters but they must comply with the following:

- ◆ #10 envelope (free ones are in Perkins Hall)
- ◆ Hand written letter and does not contain anything else
- ◆ NO stickers or smiley faces or messages on the envelope
- ◆ Hand written address with hand written return address

Taylor, Joshua R.
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What is Lay Academy?

Lay Academy

- ◆ **RETREAT-LIKE SEMINARS**
The Lay Academy is a series of “retreat-like” seminars on specific topics pertinent to our denomination and the life-long learning efforts of Lay members. The program is now in its fourth year. All lay members within the Southwest Conference and like-minded ecumenical friends are encouraged to participate.
- ◆ **INTERESTING, EXCITING, CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS TOPICS**
Classes are open to all with questioning minds. When appropriate, pre-reading materials will be sent out in advance to class participants. The seminars are “stand-alone” and interested parties are not required to take them all; however, the program does offer a series of foundational pieces to further personal enrichment and opportunities for fellowship and experiencing different learning styles.
- ◆ **OPEN TO ALL LAY PEOPLE**
The cost of each seminar is \$75 (\$65 when paid in full at least 30 days before the event), which covers the course, any pre-reading materials, and meals at the seminar. We will be working with area hotels for reduced rates and may be able to offer home hospitality. For some sessions, scholarships may be available. Please contact us for further information.

Lay Academy
2015-2016
Schedule

Lay Academy Schedule 2015-2016

- ◆ **“In the Beginning...From Zoroaster to Abraham”**
—**A Tour of the Abrahamic Faiths**
November 13-14, 2015 at the Congregational Church of the Valley, Scottsdale
Facilitator: Rev. Rock Fremont
- ◆ **“How Extravagant IS our Welcome?”**
—**Immigration**
January 8-9, 2016 at The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahaurita, AZ
Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Randy Mayer
- ◆ **“We Evolve, Does God?”**
—**Process Theology**
March 11-12, 2016 at Desert Heritage UCC, Mesa, AZ
Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Jeanyne Slettom
- ◆ **“Transfiguring Mountains: a Practical Spirituality”**
—**Spirituality**
May 13-14, 2016, First Congregational Church, Flagstaff, AZ
Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock

For more information about Lay Academy, go to: www.layacademy.org/ or call the Church office: 928-445-4555

September Missions
Focus
OCWM

What’s Happening
Outreach Ministry September Focus is OCWM

In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts from Our Church's Wider Mission. We work together to change lives!

- ◆ The General Ministries support the offices of the President and General Minister (John Dorhauer). The programs from this office vary and are often discussed on the UCC website.
- ◆ Local Church Ministries supports local churches in many ways with programs for ministerial education and support, congregational vitality education, lay leader and leader education to name some of the programs.
- ◆ Wider Church Ministries is most known for the mission outreach work of the UCC because of our disaster ministries. This arm of the church also serves congregations and other settings of the church who strive to be inclusive, as in multicultural/multiracial, open and affirming, global or accessible to all.
- ◆ Through the month of September, the members of the Outreach Ministry will bring you more information about OCWM. Further information can be found in the United Church of Christ Website.

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!

Prescott Food
Pantry Donations

Exploring Faith

Exploring Faith
Resumes

- ◆ **Monday Night Discussion Group:** Resumes meeting this coming Monday on Labor Day at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. Topic centered around **“Everyone wants to go to heaven, But do you want to go today?” The Rapture Revealed.**
- ◆ **Sunday Morning Class:** Resumes meeting this coming Sunday Morning at 9 am in the Church Library. “Faith and Reason” series will be continued. Everyone is welcome!

“Caring for
Creation”

“Caring for Creation” Planning Meeting

Will be meeting September 9th at 4:00 pm, in the Church conference room

Sue Conrad

A Family Gathering Will Be Held to Celebrate Sue Conrad’s Life

September 12th a reception and open house will be held from 1-4 pm at 850 Northwood Loop, Hidden Valley Ranch, Prescott.

P.I.E.

P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat) Family Night

We are set to begin our fall gatherings on Wednesday nights. The church will provide pizza as the meal on the 16th. We will eat together as a family from 5:30-6:15, play together as a family from 6:15-6:45, and learn together as a family from 6:45-7:30. The family dynamic will be fellowship and fun above all. Please help us know how many to expect for dinner by signing up each Sunday. If you need a ride on Wednesday, please let us know. Enjoy some P.I.E. – Play, Inspire, Eat!

Veterans Education

Veterans Educational Event

Please save the date and join us for a VA Event Tuesday, September 22nd from 2-4 pm in Sanctuary and Perkins Hall. Three VA Hospital experts will share important benefits for vets and families for in-home care, respite care, sign-up and much more. Congregation and community are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors. A light refreshment time will follow. See any Called to Care minister for more information.

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.

PFLAG Awareness Forum September 23rd at 6:30 pm

We are hosting a LGBTQ+ forum to build awareness and support. Come and here the many stories of “Accepting Who We Are”. There will be a time for Q&A and discussion.

PFLAG Awareness

Men’s Barbecue

Caring for Creation

Ministry Opportunities

Men's Barbecue

September 25th at Brent Walker's house at 6 pm, bring items for potluck. Brent's address will be sent later, along with a list of food items that could be brought. If anyone has questions please call Brent Walker 928-776-8459.

Caring for Creation Meets Again September 30th at 6:30

Join us as we raise our awareness of our local environmental issues and implement sustainable methods for our church.

Ministry Opportunities

At our recent cabinet meeting, several opportunities for members to get involved were identified. We need volunteers to help in the following areas:

- **Habitat for Humanity Church Liaison** — Volunteer to represent our church
- **Dress the Church** — banners, flowers, etc. for Sundays
- **P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat) Family Night Co-Coordinator** — to work with Tawnya Worthington on our Wednesday night program September to November. Thanks to all that have already stepped forward! This is an exciting time to get involved! Let us know in the church office if you’re interested in lending a hand!

Ongoing & Weekly Events

EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS
Sunday morning class is **currently on Summer Break and will resume after Labor Day.**
~And~

Monday evening discussion group is taking August off, and will resume on Labor Day.

CHOIR PRACTICE
meets Sundays at 9 am in the Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
resumes on Sept. 10th at 11 am

P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat) Family Night meets every Wednesday night starting September 16th at 5:50 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.

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.

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.

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

GRANITE CREEK SPIRITUAL LIVING SERVICE is held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10 am, led by Called to Care Ministry.
~And~
Service is also held the 2nd Sunday of every month at 3 pm, led by Pastor Jay. Address: Granite Creek Health & Rehabilitation Center, 1035 Scott Dr., Prescott.

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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
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