



First Congregational Church Prescott

United Church of Christ

a just world for all

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

The Parish Caller Weekly Newsletter February 15, 2019

"Blessed Be Them – Woe Be Us!"



I like this title for the sermon

Sunday because it flips our usual blessing of ourselves and criticism of the "other." Our current culture seems intent on making everything a binary choice, whether politics, religion, or how we chose to shape our society. No middle ground allowed! No compromise! These words of Jesus would seem to validate that way of thinking, albeit with the aforementioned flip:

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. (Luke 6:20-26)

Sunday's sermon allows us to apply intellectual complexity to this text (if we would check our brain at the door, simplify everything down to pop psychology applications, and participate in the us vs. them mentality, we could double our attendance). We will apply proper exegesis to Jesus' message of blessings and woes, thereby bringing our brains to church!

Jay



SPECIAL CONCERT
for the
PRESCOTT COMMUNITY

Womansong
and
The Prescott Chamber Players Trio

Saturday, March 2, 2019

3 pm

1st Congregational Church, 216 E Gurley St, Prescott

Choral Music of the Renaissance and American Folk Traditions
Instrumental Trios of the Classical Period

Free to the Public

The Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance is inviting the public to a presentation Saturday, Feb 23, 10:00-12:00 noon at the Prescott United Methodist Church.

Questions? Contact our Mission Outreach chairperson, Gary Gard 928-910-2455.

"Celebration of God's Gift to Art"

The Church is planning an Art Fair here on June 15th and would like to invite any members interested in showing their work or would like to help plan and work at the event to attend a planning meeting after Church on February 17th.

Pastor Jay has organized similar events in the past and is enthusiastic about opening the Church to the community for the event. Pastor Jay suggested the theme to be "Celebration of God's Gift to Art"

Anyone interested may contact Julie at the Church office or Barbara McCollough at cbmc4re@gmail.com , 951-297-8311



9 'n Dine



"MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND KEEP THE OLD"
Here's how at First Congregational: We are initiating a new fun way to make friends with congregants you may not know well---yet!

NINE 'n DINE FOR MARCH, 2019
This is a great opportunity to share hospitality and meet congregants both recent and established over an informal meal at a host's home. Your host will contact you about a convenient date and ask that each person bring a side dish. The host will provide the main dish.

Sign up in Perkins for an evening (or brunch) of good food and good discussion at this get-to-know-you. It's sure to be fun! Please sign up before the end of February. Questions? See Marti at church or email garrisonmarti@gmail.com.

Many THANKS and KUDOS go out to HENRY DAHLBERG for his vision and work on MOVING the Hazeltine plaque "BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED" to a more visual space along the Gurley St. side of our church.....AND also for researching and purchasing the correct plant (Nandina) and planting it in a new pot as we enter off Alarcon. Thank you Henry!



Anniversaries	
Geri Lyons	02/03
Suzanne Brouard	02/12
Suzy & Hal Lobaugh	02/19
Birthdays	
Susan Lemons	02/04
Brian Moore	02/04
Phil Prebble	02/11
Dan Bradstreet	02/12
Harry Strong	02/19
Barbie Beeson	03/02
Betty Corn	03/13
Kathy Stephens	03/13
Any Wilson	03/15
Patty Gard	03/18
Bret Ely	03/26
Andree Shrimpton	03/28



February
Patty Brenner
Bill Rouse
Randy Cook
Sue Parker-Hodge - 17th
Martie Dial - February 24th

March
Sandra Johns
Liz Spence
Gilges: Cheryl and Ralph

MISSIONS NEWS

This month's mission emphasis is the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). Pass first opened its doors to homeless women and women with children (children 12 and under) in December 2007. The shelter usually operates at its full capacity of 25 guests. In addition to providing shelter, PASS works with other area agencies to provide counseling, job assistance and other support services.

This summer, they hope to begin construction of two additional rooms which will increase their capacity to 33 guests, including children 18 years and younger. In addition to financial donations, our church provides a monthly hot meal. Volunteers are always welcome to help provide these meals. There is a PASS volunteer sign-up sheet kept on a table in Perkins Hall.

Questions or comments can be directed to our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard (Phone 928-460-4032 or email gpgard@cableone.net). As always, thank you for your support of our church's mission outreach. Our Mission Outreach Team welcomes your questions or comments. Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard (chairperson). We are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2)



christian education

Adult Opportunities for Learning and Sharing

Meeting in the Church Library, downstairs below Perkins Hall

Our Spiritual Journeys, Monday, Feb. 18, 12-1:00 is for us to share individual and unique spiritual journeys through life: questions we have, doubts, joys, changing beliefs through life stages and how we learn from each other.

Social Justice, Sunday, Feb. 17, 12-1:00. How does our church and how do we personally enact social justice? How is God calling you to rise up and act?

The Bible and the United Church of Christ, Sunday, February 24 and March 3, 9:15-10:15. We will use UCC materials as well as selected readings from our library to delve into how our church, part of the national UCC, opens the Bible for us.

Coming up: Parables Perusal, Saturday, March 16, 11-3, Meeting room 1, downstairs, led by several ministers in our midst. Each will select a parable to get us wondering: what *did* Jesus mean? Are we scratching our heads? Bring your interpretations too. (We are all theologians!) Lunch provided.

Women's Gathering in April. Get ready for lively times and deeper looks into how women are presented in the Bible. Who are they? How do we relate...or not? Date, time, and place TBA.

Questions and Suggestions: see Marti Garrison in church or at garrisonmarti@gmail.com

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Conference room. All adults are welcome.

EVERY WEEK COMMUNION

"Every Sunday Communion" takes place in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. Communion is open to all.

ONCE A MONTH 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 the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.

THE RINGING BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

If you would be interested in playing with us, we will train you! This is a fun and rewarding contribution to our worship.

We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

CHANCEL SINGERS

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase membership.

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services.

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal on the Chancel each Sunday.

If you like to sing or can play an instrument, we are looking for new members.

We play folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else.

Contact Melissa Gates phone: 207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins,

or wait until the children's time with the pastor and then go to Sunday school. Children are also welcome to stay in the worship service at the discretion of the parent(s).

ADMINISTRATION
Monday - Thursday: 9:00-4:00
Friday 9:00-1:00
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com
juliefccprescott@gmail.com



PASTOR JAY
Monday - Thursday: 9:00-1:00
928-899-9066
Jayfccprescott@gmail.com