



# The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

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

## Weekly News and Updates

### *This Week at a Glance...*

- Sunday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Prayer Chapel: 11:00 a.m.
- Pastor's Bible Study: Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m.

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### FROM THE PASTOR

*John Harvard Statue, Harvard Yard*

This Sunday we continue our look at our stained-glass window, and one of the more unusual panes in any church window - Harvard. It helps to know that our longstanding pastor, Dr. Franklin Parker, led in the founding of Prescott College (1966) and envisioned it being "the Harvard of the West." It also helps to know he led in the design of our stained-glass window, and he chose Harvard as the institution representing the "more light" of education.



The selection of Harvard also reminds us of the commitment of Congregationalists to education and the founding of Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and many other colleges and schools. Indeed, their commitment to education led them to the Arizona Territory and Prescott - and to the founding of First Congregational Church.

This Sunday we will look at Psalm 19 which reminds us of the importance of God's Word enlightening our paths. The title of the sermon is "Inquiring Minds Are Welcome Here." I will make the case that using our brains will save us from a lot of "fake" theology (and fake news!).

Jay

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### Sermon Series Continues...

- Oct. 8 Harvard
- Oct. 15 The U.S. Constitution
- Oct. 22 The United Nations
- Oct. 29 Martin Luther

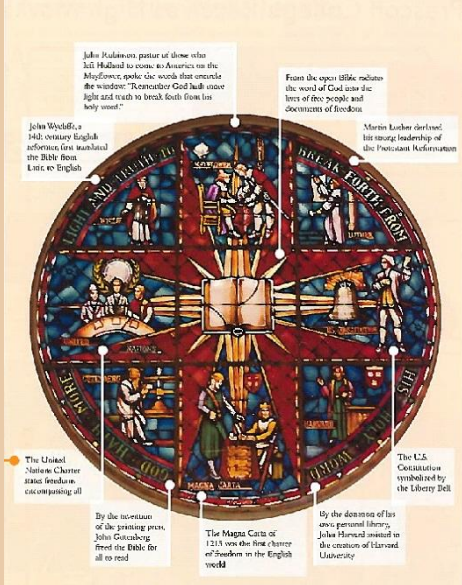
(October 31 - the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation)

### MISSION NEWS

Outreach Mission Update: Thanks to your generous donations, we are sending a Hurricane Relief check to the denominational headquarters in the amount of \$4600. We are also sending a check for \$495 to support the projects of Neighbors in Need.

This month's mission emphasis is "Warm for Winter", a project of the local Coalition for Compassion and Justice. The last Saturday of this month, free warm clothing will be made available to those who are homeless or living in an impoverished family. New or





gently used coats, sweaters, blankets, gloves, socks and hats are needed. If you would like to make a check donation, please make your check payable to the church with a memo note of “Warm for Winter”.

## CALLED TO CARE PRAYER CHAPEL: DAY CHANGE

We meet at 11:00 for Prayer Chapel downstairs on Tuesdays instead of Mondays.

## Rev. Traci Blackmon: It is up to US to stop gun violence



October 02, 2017  
Written by **Traci Blackmon**

*Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant; I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Psalm 73:1-3*

"The worst mass shooting in modern American history."

We've heard these words before. We've heard them far too often only to have the next mass shooting supersede the former. During the night, people attending an outdoor country music festival in Las Vegas unexpectedly found themselves assaulted by gunfire from the 32nd floor of the Las Vegas' Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Early reports indicate this violence is the work of a lone, 64-year-old, white gunman

equipped with multiple assault weapons. It is too early to know whether we will ever have knowledge of his provocation for this deadly act. It is too early to know what life experiences he may have had, or what propaganda he may have absorbed, that might have moved him from hateful thought to hateful action. But what we do already know, even if we refuse to admit it, is that this lone gunman was able to execute at least 59 people, and wound over 500 more, because our nation's absolute refusal to enact responsible gun legislation provides easy access to high-powered assault weapons used to kill human beings. According to data gathered by the CDC, on average there are 12,000 gun homicides a year in the United States, and for every one person killed with a gun, two more are injured. What we know is that of the guns sold in the U.S. one in five are sold without background checks.

What we also know is that soon the predictable rhetoric exhorting the false notion that guns do not kill people will begin again, and gun lobbyists will line up to offer condolences for lives lost without offering proposals of any comprehensive gun reform to lessen the probability of this type of massacre ever happening again. What we know is we will spend our time analyzing the mental health of the shooter while excusing the moral decay of this nation.

In Psalm 73, the psalmist cries out for relief from oppressors while simultaneously acknowledging the temptation to stray from those things we know to be morally just. In this Psalm we are reminded of the necessity to heed the teaching and the love of the Lord, lest we become adorned with pride and clothed in violence.

My heart weeps for those who are waking this morning to notifications of the deaths and injuries of loved ones needlessly gunned down last night. My heart weeps for a nation that will once again gather to mourn the dead without committing to the deeper work of sensible gun reform. May the groaning pains of this nation lift us up from our praying knees to call on our policymakers to demand legislative changes to gun laws in this country. May we stop wringing our hands in helpless disbelief and satiating our hearts with false narratives of lone gunmen. Because until we do all we can to prevent such mass shootings, no gunman acts alone. From Sandy Hook to Texas to Charleston to Virginia Tech to Pulse to Las Vegas... Lord, hear our cries and compel us to act.

**Here are eight actions that you can begin today:**

### 1. Start Planning a vigil to #EndGunViolence.

The victims, survivors and the families impacted by gun violence are often forgotten. Therefore, the Newtown Foundation, in partnership with Faiths United Against Gun Violence, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Everytown Survivor Network, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Organizing for Action, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, St Marks Episcopal Church and Women's March on Washington will host the annual national vigil service of mourning and loving remembrance for all who



have fallen victim to the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in America on December 6th and nationwide vigils/events from December 6-17th.

- Please complete [this form](#) to host a vigil or an event in your town or city and our partners at the Newtown Foundation will send you the 2017 National Vigil Tool Kit to facilitate your planning and to coordinate our collective gun violence prevention message.
- Consider coming to DC to attend the national vigil service to support the families and survivors impacted by gun violence and renew our pledge to fight for gun violence prevention. [Please reserve your seat here.](#)
- Direct family members of victims and survivors of gun violence from all 50 states are invited to attend the national vigil service on December 6th at St Marks Episcopal Church. There are travel stipends available. Please forward this [registration form](#) to families and survivors who may be interested.

**2. Call your Congressional representative.**

[Find out who represents you in Congress](#), then let them know that you are a constituent, that you want to make gun reform a priority and that you expect to see them take strong action on common sense gun reforms like legislation to strengthen the background check process and state/federal cooperation improvement needed to make it more effective.

**3. Facebook and Tweet your representatives.**

Your elected officials are listening to what you say on social media. [You can look them up now and let them know what you think.](#)

**4. Learn more about why gun violence is an issue for people of faith.**

Download the UCC's [Faith vs. Fear: A Faith Response to Gun Violence](#). This five-part bible study is a good tool for opening up discussion in your congregation. [Visit our website for more info on this and on our work to end gun violence.](#)

**5. Join a local Gun Violence Prevention group.**

National groups with local chapters:

- The Brady Campaign. Click [here](#) to find a local chapter.
- Moms Demand Action. Click [here](#) to find a local chapter.

Local Groups at the state level:

- States United to Prevent Gun Violence in America. Click [here](#) to find a local state chapter.

**6. Be SMART**

S Secure guns in homes and vehicles.

M Model responsible behavior.

A Ask about unsecured guns in other homes.

R Recognize the risks of teen suicide.

T Tell your peers to be SMART.

**7. Ask your local organizations about their gun policies and demand that they publish them.**

It is important for your local community organizations to have a gun policy. Ask your local:

- Businesses
- Faith communities
- Schools
- Libraries
- Public spaces

**8. Register To Vote and then Actually VOTE.**

Your vote is your voice. [Check now to see if you are registered at your current address. If not, register and make sure you have the information you need to cast your ballot.](#)

*The Rev. Traci Blackmon is a UCC national officer, Justice and Witness Ministries Executive, and Senior Pastor of Christ The King UCC in Florissant, Mo. This article was from the UCC.org*

**About the 3 Great Loves Initiative:**

The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent. The 3 Great Loves is the denomination's opportunity to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.

Beginning at Synod 2017 and ending at Synod 2019, through the lens of the 3 Great Loves, the United Church of Christ in its many settings of ministry will discern and lift up how we act upon these 3 Great Loves. As we do so, we will tell the story of how we are impacting and transforming the world, as covenantal partners united in common purpose and mission.

During these upcoming two years, there will be moments of special invitation to participate in this denomination-wide undertaking. One by one we will focus on each of the 3 Great Loves in service to our communities.



**3 Great Loves**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** has recently adopted a new purpose, mission and vision statement:

- ❖ We will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. **(Purpose)**
- ❖ United by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God's grace we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. **(Mission)**
- ❖ A just world for all. **(Vision)**

**IN FIDELITY TO THIS STATEMENT**, the denomination has invited congregations and individuals within the United Church of Christ to move in mission toward the 3 GREAT LOVES: love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation.



THE CHOIR IS NOW CALLED  
"THE CHANCEL SINGERS"

You do not have to be able to read music or be a great singer to join us! The Chancel Singers are seeking people who love to sing. Anyone interested is invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Chancel. We also practice on Thursday evenings at 5:00. You may attend one of both of these times, depending on what suits you.

For more information, please contact the Music Director, Jane Osborn, at 928-713-4752 or [prescottsong@hotmail.com](mailto:prescottsong@hotmail.com).

October Birthdays

Melissa Gates	13-Oct
David Foote	17-Oct
Elizabeth Gates	21-Oct
Harold Lobaugh	22-Oct
Suzy Lobaugh	23-Oct
Patty Lantrip	25-Oct
Buz Duffy	26-Oct
Marilyn Eby	28-Oct

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

- Patty Lantrip
- Angela Imbierowicz
- Susan Lemons/Ralph Wagner
- Elkanah Riley -- Substitute

If you would like to become a greeter, see Anne Solt

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED  
OCTOBER 22

Do you want to learn about our church's long and fascinating history, both as First Congregational then United Church of Christ in Prescott? And would you like to share in a discussion on how our church is valuable in our Prescott/Prescott Valley area and share why you are joining or why you joined?



Whether you are becoming a member now or have been a member for any length of time, please join Rev. Marti Garrison and Julie McCurdy to learn about who we are and our core beliefs. We will show new members around the church too.

This Sunday, October 8th, Marti will lead the discussion on the Congregational/United Church of Christ history and how we operate as a church family. On Sunday, October 15, Julie will open up a conversation on how this particular church is so needed and valued in our community. We will meet after service in the big meeting room downstairs, about 11:45.

Our new member Sunday is October 22nd. It's wonderful to welcome new members!

STEWARDSHIP

Offerings			Attendance	Monthly Average	YTD Average	Outreach Gifts		
	September	YTD	January	102		Jan	July	
Offerings	\$ 2,323	\$ 82,924	February	89		Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 510	Pancake Breakfast \$ 3,027
Facility Use	\$ 623	\$ 9,506	March	89		Feb	August	
Foundation		\$ 47,876	April	108		PASS	\$ 140	Discovery Gardens \$ 65
Other		\$ 5,509	May	101		March	Sept	
Total	\$ 2,946	\$ 145,815	June	79		Habitat for Humanity	\$ 165	Neighbors in Need \$ 495
Expenses			July	96		April	Undesignated Missions	
	October	YTD	August	91		One Great Hour Share	\$ 1,183	YTD \$ 900
Expenses	\$ 2,888	\$ 215,250	Sept	90		May	Famine Relief	
Annual Budget Needs			Oct	81	93	Church World Service	\$ 319	Special Offering \$ 795.00
	Annual	October YTD	Nov			June	Hurricane Relief	
Expenses	\$ 254,276	\$ 210,397	Dec			Strengthen the Church	\$ 280	Special Offering \$ 4,600

BENEVOLENT EVENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SHARE

Called to Care members Wendy & Alan Michael, Patty Lantrip & Marilyn Kerstine attended this most informative event in August. The many local ministries below work together and shared pamphlets with more contacts and free services.. Please let your friends and neighbors know about these resources. They will be both posted on the bulletin boards in the church basement and in the church office Called to Care shelf.

Achievem ent Employment Services: Vocational Rehab for Disabled  
Dept. of Economic Security, DES 928-759-1636 in PV  
Achieve Employment Services: Dale Wolford: 928-713-6695 in PV  
Visit: [www.azdes.gov/RSA/](http://www.azdes.gov/RSA/) or call toll free: 1-800-563-1221 RSA Pamphlet



Coalition of Compassion & Justice: CCJ—Jessi Hans  
Operates Fair Street Thrift Store. Café serves food. Does home repairs. Tree House (children play while parents needs are met). Safe legal sleep. Sobering Center. Volunteers call 928-445-8382;  
[CCJDirector@gmail.com](mailto:CCJDirector@gmail.com); [www.facebook.com / YavapaiCCJ](https://www.facebook.com/YavapaiCCJ)

Family Violence: Marie Yogerst & Bob Steward  
PV Police Dept has \$1500 to help Victims of Family Violence & Crime  
Pamphlets include what to do, where to go for many services in Prescott & PV;  
Domestic Violence Safety Plan; PV Police Dept Victim Services: non-emergency: 928-772-5113. Email: [victimservices@pvaz.net](mailto:victimservices@pvaz.net)  
Community Legal Services: 928-445-9240 free civil law advice & services  
Get Connected, Get Answers: Call: 877-211-8661 or just dial 211  
Civil Justice for Victims of Crime in Arizona: toll free: 844-LAW-HELP  
[victimbar@ncvc.org](mailto:victimbar@ncvc.org) [www.victimbar.org](http://www.victimbar.org) National Crime Victim Bar Association

Re-Employment Assistance—Sheryl Gillum  
Resume writing; job seekers: assistance, unemployment, referral, interviewing and job searching skills. Arizona@Work 928-759-1670 PV [sgillum@azdes.gov](mailto:sgillum@azdes.gov)

Stepping Stones -- Alexis Miller  
Women & Children family violence, homelessness, sexual assault  
Provide shelter 24/7; services free and available to all; helpline available 24/7; Shelter with kids up to 4 months. Thrift Shop & Coffee House (caters) offer employment, training for residents. Transitional Housing for up to two years.  
Tours available: 6719 E. 2nd Str., Ste A, PV 86314; ADMIN: 928-772-4184 [www.SteppingStonesAZ.org](http://www.SteppingStonesAZ.org) Help Line: 928-445-HOPE, Jesus Gutierrez, volunteer coordinator; Volunteers needed. [Jesus@SteppingStonesAZ.org](mailto:Jesus@SteppingStonesAZ.org)

Salvation Army -- Michael Beauchamp  
Meals served 8-10 a.m. After-school program needs retired school teachers  
Operation Deep Freeze...volunteers needed. Prescott, 928-778-0150  
[Michael.beauchamp@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Michael.beauchamp@usw.salvationarmy.org)

Child Identity Theft -- Pamphlet: [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov)  
Lost, Stolen Credit ATM and Debit Cards -- Pamphlet: what to do -- [Ftc.gov](http://Ftc.gov)

Net Cetera, Chatting with Kids about being online -- Pamphlet

Phone Scams -- Pamphlet -- [Ftc.gov/complaint](http://Ftc.gov/complaint)

Loveisrespect.org -- 1-866-331-9474  
Help recognize the red flags when things don't feel right in relationship  
Don't be a victim of abuse online, on the phone, or face-to-face

Community Pregnancy Center CPC - Pamphlet. Free help and choices and options. 928-778-7654.  
[www.options-az.com](http://www.options-az.com)

The Big and Little Kids Book- Yavapai Cty 2016  
Organizations that help children (age 6-18) and their families in need  
[www.yavapaikidsbook.org](http://www.yavapaikidsbook.org)

Hope Fest AZ—Community Resource Fair.  
Saturday, October 14, 2017 10 a.m. -8 p.m. - Prescott Courthouse Plaza

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Hazeltine 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.

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care holds a weekly prayer time at 11:00 am on Tuesdays in the Chapel downstairs. Place your prayer requests in the prayer box in Perkins Hall.

PASS MEAL

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 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

CHANCEL SINGERS

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase its membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services and Thursday nights at 5:00 p.m. Come when you can.

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal in the Hazeltine Room 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



<p>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.</p> <p><b>CABINET MEETING</b></p> <p>Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.</p> <p><b>VAN MINISTRY</b></p> <p>If you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please let Bill Rouse know by the Saturday before. 602-769-5770</p>	<p>else. Contact Melissa Gates phone:207-391-3276</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS</b></p> <p>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).</p>
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CONTACT US

<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b></p> <p><b>PRESCOTT, UCC</b></p> <p>216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301</p> <p>Office: 928-445-4555</p> <p>Pastor Jay: 928-899-9066</p> <p>Julie: 928-710-1379</p>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATION</b></p> <p>Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00</p> <p>Friday 9:00 - 1:00</p> <p><b>PASTOR JAY</b></p> <p>Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00</p> <p>other times by appointment</p>
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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30

