



First Congregational Church Prescott

Merry Christmas

FROM THE PASTOR

The Prescott City Council voted 6-1 Tuesday, Dec. 4, calling for state Rep. David Stringer's resignation. The dissenting vote was cast by Councilman Phil Goode, who said he believed the council is the wrong body to be calling for Stringer's ouster.

Stringer recently was recorded telling Arizona State University students that African-Americans "don't blend in," among other things, and subsequently lost a House of Representatives chairmanship over the comments. Mayor Greg Mengarelli stated that Stringer's racial comments "reflect poorly and inaccurately" on Prescott. (Cindy Barks, Prescott Daily Courier)



I attended the city council meeting Tuesday to make sure the religious community was represented in opposition to racism. I don't often wear a clergy collar, but I did at this event to be visible. After the vote, most of us gave our city council a standing ovation.

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent, and that means another visit from John the Baptist and his message of repentance. Quoting Isaiah 40, John called on the people to prepare the way for the Messiah: A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Luke 3:1-6)

For John the Baptist, repentance should turn one toward justice and love. He called upon the people to clear the highway to God of any obstacle preventing justice and love. Racism should not be allowed to block God's path. Thanks to our mayor and city council, along with Superintendent of Schools Joe Howard, Senate-President-elect Karen Fann, and even Gov. Doug Ducey, for calling for the resignation of Rep. Stringer.

Our congregation stands against racism, and stands for the full inclusion of all people as made in the image of God:

First Congregational Church of Prescott, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation. We include all persons without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, or personal ability. We welcome all to share the celebrations and challenges of our congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Jay

REACHING OUR STEWARDSHIP GOAL

UPDATE ON WHERE OUR PLEDGES FOR 2019 STAND:

\$92,278

GOAL \$127,000

Pledge Units: 38

There are pledge cards in Perkins Hall, or you may download and print this one that is in the Caller.

PLEDGE CARD

2019 Congregational Pledge Goal: \$127,000



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Each Week ☐

or Each Month ☐

I plan to give:

For an annual total of \$ _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____

SAVE THIS STUB FOR YOUR RECORDS

MY PLEDGE

Each Week ☐

Each Month ☐

\$ _____ Annual Total \$ _____

2019 BUDGET

STEWARDSHIP BOOKLET



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carole Sue Llnson December 8
 Sandra Talbot December 8
 Richard Unkenholz December 21
 Randy Jay Wilcher December 17
 Pete Norum December 18
 Charlie Hille December 19
 Dakota Wilson December 20
 Jay Eby December 24
 Dillan Osborn December 25
 Don Stephens December 25
 Christopher Hoit December 27



MISSIONS OUTREACH FOR DECEMBER

Our December mission emphasis includes;

1. Our denomination's Christmas Fund which supports low income clergy and their spouses, and
2. Our DACA Assistance Fund, which helps college age DACA students meet the expenses of paying out-of-state tuition and the expense of applying for the renewal of their DACA status. Presently, our DACA Fund is supporting Franceny, who was a part of our panel of students at our March DACA presentation in Perkins Hall. Franceny needs \$5000 to meet the out-of-state tuition for her last semester at Yavapai Community College. The last Sunday date for being able to help Franceny meet her goal is Sunday, December 23rd. Franceny was brought to the United States when she was only 4 years old. Through high school and college, she has maintained mostly "A's" while taking Honor Classes. Use your check memo line to indicate which mission emphasis you prefer.



Questions are welcome to any of our Mission Outreach team members: Gary Gard, Chr, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins. As always, thank you for supporting our church's ministries of justice and compassion. We have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2)



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP!

Here is a schedule of events and discussions folks have expressed interest in. I am really looking forward to these and more!

Curious about the Spiritual Journey adult education

opportunity?

If you're wondering about this opportunity, please come to the church library (downstairs) at 9:40 this Sunday for a "sample" of what this group could be about. Your suggestions are important!

When Julie, Pete and I met this past Monday we had a really interesting wide-ranging conversation about our own questions, hopes, and curiosity. We would love more input from others about these and other topics, for example, are you looking back on how you have changed since earlier phases of your life:

- who was God to you then, who is God now? What do you think and feel about Jesus
- Are you interested in spiritual disciplines such as different kinds of prayer or guided meditation?
- Are you willing to share doubts, convictions, and questions about your spiritual life in a congenial, supportive group?
- What does "spiritual journey" mean anyway?

This is an open-ended confidential discussion with no particular agenda except listening, sharing and learning. I hope to see you this Sunday! We meet Mondays at noon in the library. Thank you! Rev. Marti Garrison, Director of Christian Education

We will meet in the church library, downstairs.

December 9 and 23 and ongoing as we wish: Sundays, 1:00, “Social Justice: past, present, and future for the UCC and beyond.” What does social justice mean for us? What were the Social Gospel and Liberation Theology and how have those movements shaped our understanding of social justice? What actions can each of us take, can the church take to shape justice in our communities?

“Reading the Parables: Many interpretations, No easy answers.” A discussion group. Dates and times to be announced, starting early in 2019.

“Homosexuality and the Bible (and the UCC): what do the scriptures really say?” Either a one-day seminar or a series of presentations. February, 2019

“Women in the Bible: a women’s retreat” Spring, 2019. Powerful women, unnamed women, “bad girls,” suffering women, joyful women. We will look at the texts and play around with alternative versions. The library has many good books on theology through a woman’s eyes and experiences.

Look over the books under the Christian Education bulletin board for possible topics for small group discussions or for seminars. These books plus many resources in our library will inspire us to take on new and unexpected opportunities. All the topics and formats you have indicated on the forms you returned will be scheduled as best as possible. Thank you! See me for thoughts, suggestions, and questions. Rev. Marti Garrison, Director of Christian Education.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS - CCJ LITTLE TREE HOUSE & UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Family Christmas provides children (birth through 18) from low-income families with new Christmas gifts. 1,400 children were served last year. Gift items - teen purses, jewelry, makeup, gift cards, sports equipment, books, dolls, building blocks, toy cars and planes, pajamas, winter clothing, arts & craft kits, games, stocking stuffers. Bring you unwrapped gifts **by December 19**to Prescott United Methodist Church. Low-income families may register at the Little Tree House (505 West Gurley) from 10am-2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH POTLUCK MEAL - DECEMBER 23 AFTER WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DECEMBER 24 AT 7:00 PM

ALAN MICHAEL’S BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT

Please help - If you are under 60, go to the national registry at bethematch.org. If over 60, go to bonemarrowtest.com. Monies are available to cover the cost.

PASTOR BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY, 9:30-10:30 AM

Pastor Jay leads a weekly Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the church office.

RINGING BELLS REHEARSAL 9:00 THURSDAYS

We are looking for new ringers that would like to come and try with us. It is necessary that you read treble clef music. Call if you are interested. Director Carole Sue Linson M.M. 928 717 4494

ACTIVITY BAGS

To help your little ones pass the time before the Children’s Time, you will find colored activity bags hanging on the entry doors of the sanctuary for the children to enjoy. Please leave these activity bags in the pews when the children leave for Sunday school.

Regularly Scheduled

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.

VAN MINISTRY

If you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please let Bill Rouse know by the Saturday before. 602-769-5770

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).



CONTACT US

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PRESCOTT, UCC**
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Pastor Jay: 928-899-9066
Julie: 928-710-1379

ADMINISTRATION
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00
Friday 9:00 - 1:00
PASTOR JAY
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00
other times by appointment