

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY 10:30 AM

### From the Pastor

Sunday is Mother's Day. We will gather with a special choir called the Sophia Sisters. Additional music provided by Ann, Elizabeth, Brian, Thomas, and the Ringing Bells. We will remember Sophia, the Greek word for wisdom - feminine! Mother-to-be Diane is liturgist; JJ and Ziggy provide their annual reminder of a mother's many duties.

MOTHER'S DAY: We often forget the radical roots of Mother's Day. Far from being an intimate celebration of family life, Mother's Day had its origin in work for justice and peace. It all started in the 1850s, when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination, according to historian Katharine Antolini of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The groups also tended wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865. In the postwar years Jarvis and other women organized Mother's Friendship Day picnics and other events as pacifist strategies to unite former foes. Julia Ward Howe, for one—best known as the composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"—issued a widely read "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, calling for women to take an active political role in promoting peace. Around the same time, Jarvis had initiated a Mother's Friendship Day for Union and Confederate loyalists across her state. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day—and who would spend most of her later life fighting the limitation and sentimentality of what it had become. (Ann L. Hanson, UCC Justice and Witness Ministries)

**NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED ON MAY 19  
PENTECOST SUNDAY - THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH  
SEE PASTOR JAY OR ONE OF OUR CO-MODERATORS -  
SANDY OR ARON**

### **FROM THE FACILITIES TEAM**

**Isn't it great to see so many kids in worship and in Sunday School? We are fortunate to have caring teachers in Audra and Jeni. To that end we want to keep them safe and happy. This past week new carpet was installed in the Sunday School classroom. We spent a great deal of time securing the best price and are pleased to say Miele Floors accommodated our requests. Please venture to the lower level and see the new carpet.**

Tom, David, and Ed

**SCAM ALERT! THE PASTOR WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, EVER ASK YOU FOR GIFT CARDS OR MONEY OR A FAVOR IN ANY FORM!!!!!!**

**Help Keep Underserved Community Members**  
*Clean, Dry, and Healthy*  
by supporting the  
Wrapped in Love Diaper Bank



**Spring Diaper Drive**



April 28 to May 12, 2024  
**First Congregational Church/UCC**  
216 E Gurley St, Prescott, AZ 86301 Phone: 928-445-4555

**Needs Include:** Large sized diapers 5-7, pull-ups, and wipes.  
Feminine hygiene products, incontinence supplies, and adult wipes.  
**All contributions will be distributed in Yavapai County.**

BECAUSE BASIC NEEDS AREN'T BASIC. *They're Essential*



You can also make a donation, big or small, by mail, online, or on our Amazon Wishlist, by using this QR code, or by going to our website.  
If you have questions, please call us at 928-848-2023



Link to Amazon Wishlist

For more information visit our website at:  
[www.wrappedinloved diaperbank.org](http://www.wrappedinloved diaperbank.org)  
or follow us on social media.



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Watch Worship Services Here

## MAY MISSION NEWS

**MONTHLY FOCUS:** Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project/program. For the month of May, our highlighted program is the newly created **Rev. Gary Gard Memorial Scholarship** for Discovery Gardens preschool families.

The **Rev. Gary Gard Memorial Scholarship** supports Discovery Gardens preschoolers whose families have fallen behind in tuition payments due to unforeseen life circumstances. In April, funds supported a young girl who had recently lost her father to suicide, allowing her to continue to attend preschool through the end of the school year and providing her with a safe, secure environment during this difficult time—exactly the kind of situation

Rev. Gary Gard would have stepped in to do all he could for.

The goal of future scholarship offerings is to likewise provide a helping hand to families at Discovery Gardens temporarily struggling to cover preschool costs for their child. Your donations assist such families for 1-2 months so that their preschooler's education is not interrupted due to unexpected financial pressures.

If you wish to make a donation, checks may be made payable to the church with the memo: **GG**. Undesignated mission donations will be used at the discretion of the Mission Outreach team.

As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

*Mission Outreach Committee members are Carolyn Christians, Roxanne Matthews, Bill Bryant, and Becky Bryant, chairperson. If you would like to serve with us, or have any other outreach matters to discuss, please contact Becky at (928) 910-2820 or [beckybryant2255@gmail.com](mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com).*

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**Come one, Come all, to our FCC COFFEE HOUSE! Last Friday of every month - May 31 - 4 to 6 pm - Perkins Hall - Serving: good conversation, light beverages and snacks, lots of games, music of all kinds, dancing if you want it, and any other creative ideas you can come up with. Please use the Alarcon St door to enter. See you then!**

**MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES NEEDS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO HELP TAKE CARE OF OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS – SEE ED ZNETKO FOR DETAILS**

#### **PASS - PRESCOTT AREA SHELTER SERVICES**

PASS, our local women's shelter, serves as a place for women and children experiencing homelessness. The third Wednesday of every month (**May 15**) our church provides dinner for the guests at the shelter. Meal items are brought to the church parking lot at 5:00 pm and then taken by one of our members to the shelter. Carolyn Christians has taken over this role from Patty Gard. We need new members to sign up to help each month. The sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

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#### **FACEBOOK UPDATE**

"We have a new Facebook group, First Congregational Church Prescott FCC - which you can join. We will be posting events, and meetup information for the community, as well as exploring ways to bring back our outreach partners; the LGBTQ community youth, AA, etc. and

other groups who have used the church pre-Covid for meeting spaces. Please join the group, and join in the discussion! If you have any questions, you can email Brit and Mike Flores at [bafwriter@gmail.com](mailto:bafwriter@gmail.com), our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at [FCCprescott@gmail.com](mailto:FCCprescott@gmail.com).

## SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MOTHER’S DAY

May 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

#### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

*God, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth. We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.*

Prelude: “Come, Thou Almighty King”      The Ringing Bells

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: “O God, Whose Steadfast Love” by James Haddix      Sophia Sisters

A Time for Children of All Ages

(Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children’s time)

Hymn: “Faith of Our Mothers”

(Tune: “Faith of Our Fathers”)

**Faith of our mothers, living still, in cradle song and bedtime prayer; In nursery lore and fireside love, thy presence still pervades the air. Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true ‘till our last breath.**

**Faith of our mothers, loving faith, fount of our childhood’s trust and grace, oh, may thy consecration prove source of a finer, nobler race; faith of our mothers, loving faith, we will be true ‘till our last breath.**

**Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, for youthful longing, youthful doubt, how blurred our vision, blind our way, thy providential care without. Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, we will be true ‘till our last breath.**

Call to Worship

Diane Mares

One: All who gather here are sons or daughters.

**All: We praise God for the women who gave us life.**

One: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

**All: We give God thanks and praise.**

One: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

**All: We pray for peace.**

One: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

**All: We pray for healing.**

One: For mothers who have died,

**All: We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.**

One: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

**All: We weep with those with broken hearts.**

One: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

**All: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.**

One: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

**All: We pray for wisdom and patience.**

One: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

**All: We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.**

One: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for an adoptive process to be fulfilled.

**All: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.**

One: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

**All: We give you thanks, O God.**

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Invocation

Diane Mares

Lord Jesus, who wishes to gather your people as a mother hen gathers together her chicks, we offer to you our worship. Accept our gratitude for all who mother, bless all who mother, and give all mothers your comfort and strength. We pray for justice and equality for women around the world. For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world; for the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life; for women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others; for women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ; for the caregivers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers; for moms, in their wide variety and many forms. And help all of us to be your family on earth, as we shall be in heaven. Amen

Gospel Reading: John 17:6-19

Diane Mares

\*Hymn: "O God, Whose Steadfast Love"

New Century Hymnal #426

Sermon: "Our Mother Wisdom – Hagia Sophia"

Pastor Jay

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: El Shaddai by Chael Card and John W. Thompson Elizabeth Gates & Ann Flanagan

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "O God, Whose Steadfast Love" by James Haddix  
Bells

Brian, Thomas, and

\*Easter Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth)

Brian Moore

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing! Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death, and given life eternal breath.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Diane Mares

**O God, receive these gifts, bless them and multiply them, that they may  
strengthen and unify the work of your Church here and around the earth  
you love. Amen.**

Hymn: "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"

New Century Hymnal #583

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "Die Ländler" Bavarian Folk Tune

Brian and Thomas

**AMAZON SUPPLIES TO PROVIDE FOR JENI AND AUDRA IN  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**This QR code will take you to the supplies that can be ordered and  
provided:**



**TREASURER REPORT**

The total income as of March 31 is \$57,013  
and the total expenses are \$44,512.

The net income is \$12,501.

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer



Because of You our church changes lives.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PROVIDED ESTIMATES OF  
GIVING FOR 2024!**

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## SUPPORT THE CHURCH

Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page - You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.

Use your credit card and get some points!

Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.

Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street,  
Prescott, AZ 86301

Use the QR Code below:



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United  
Church of  
Christ

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