

BELOVED COMMUNITY - LENT IS COMING!

Get out your purple clothes and prepare your hearts for an onslaught of invitations to “repent, fast, pray, and prepare for the coming of Easter.” Though the first half of the month is going to be spent in reflection on renewal, we are going to spend the second half of the month in a season of self-evaluation!

As I was preparing for Lent, I was reminded of how heavy it can be. We spend the first day of Lent thinking about all people being “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” and, while we celebrate God’s love, we are stuck with the feeling of being as insignificant as dust, waiting for God to do something wonderful with us. With ashes on our foreheads, we welcome Lent prepared to reflect on all that is wrong in the world and how we can be reconciled back to God as if we were the disciples following at Christ’s back learning once again. While I do think we should always be this intentional in our learnings and living, this season can also just be an opportunity to lean into the simple extravagance of God’s love in our daily lives and in everything around us. I think of this as we begin our season with the simple extravagant love we observe of on Ash Wednesday.

I say this because, a while back, I was speaking to a friend about the words “you make beautiful things out of the dust” from the song Beautiful Things by Gungor. We had just finished singing the song at an Ash Wednesday service and my friend were distraught by the language. My friend spent most of their life studying ecosystems and they were telling me of their love for looking at dust under a microscope. They were upset about the song and the whole idea that we have to wait for beautiful things because they were taught that dust—the fragments we often see as useless and dirty—was beautiful. They saw how dust carried with it more intricate beauty that could not be seen to the naked eye. They said to me, “I just don’t understand why we sing or say things about making dust beautiful as if it isn’t already.” As I listened to them speak I was left astounded by the way my friend shifted my perspective of God’s love in such a simple way. It was as if God was telling me to “look closer, that is what I want you to do this season.”

My friends words continue to stick with me today as I write this message for the month of February because I am reminded that we are not just invited to “repent, fast, pray, and prepare for the coming of Easter,” we are invited to shift our perspective and look a little closer. We are invited to look a little closer to see the beauty and love within the things that we may disregard or paint as insignificant.

We are invited to see God’s love and live that into existence simply by leaning a little closer into our relationship with God and the wonders of what God created for us to experience. With this, I hope we can lean into the days ahead of us with curiosity and wonder. May this Lenten season be painted with story sharing, perspective shifting, spiritual practice forming, questions, answers, and a whole lotta of looking closer at the simple, extravagant love of God just waiting to be seen.

Blessings,
Pastor Amanda



MISSION -

Building relationships
with C.A.R.E.

VISION -

Compassionate
Community

Attentive Hospitality

Responsive Outreach

Engaging Spiritual
Formation

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LENT 2024: between a rock and a hard place

For our season of Lent, Pastor Amanda is guiding us through a worship series and study on passages of scripture highlighting some of the hardest Christian concepts for us to talk about. Every Sunday during Lent, she is inviting us to look deeper at passages of scripture and what they teach us about things like sin, judgement, and other aspects of our faith formation making us feel like we are caught between a rock and a hard place.

Along with the worship series, Pastor Amanda is hosting a Bible Study to dive a little deeper into the scriptures. Come join Pastor Amanda on:

**Fridays (starting Feb. 18th)
At 10:00am
At Carlitos Coffee House
(location subject to change)**

**Potpourri Bible Study
9am**

With Rev. Gary Simons, Pastor Emeritus

Join Pastor Gary on Sunday mornings for a study built upon our questions! Bring your questions about scripture, history, theology, tradition, and anything related to our religious formation. There might not always be clear answers but there is always GREAT discussion!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 4

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Sermon: C.A.R.E.

February 11

Scripture: Mark 9: 2-9
Sermon Title: "A Complete Change of Form"

LENT THEME: between a rock and a hard place

Feb 14 ASH WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Sermon: Simple, Extravagant Love

This service will be hosted by Prescott Valley United Methodist Church at 4pm

Feb 25

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-6
Sermon: The Speck and the Plank

March 3rd

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31
Sermon: The Rich Man and Jesus



WINGS 



A Message from our little friend

PRESCOTT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S MOUSE



This page is added to celebrate stories, reflections, and other little things share on behalf of our church family! This month, we have a special blessing shared with us through Pastor Amanda to prepare our hearts for Ash Wednesday:

Blessing the Dust, A Blessing for Ash Wednesday, by Jan Richardson

All those days
 you felt like dust,
 like dirt,
 as if all you had to do
 was turn your face
 toward the wind
 and be scattered
 to the four corners
 or swept away
 by the smallest breath
 as insubstantial—
 Did you not know
 what the Holy One
 can do with dust?
 This is the day
 we freely say
 we are scorched.
 This is the hour
 we are marked
 by what has made it
 through the burning.
 This is the moment
 we ask for the blessing
 that lives within
 the ancient ashes,
 that makes its home
 inside the soil of
 this sacred earth.
 So let us be marked

Well, 'hi' friends!

Just letting you know that I've found a really nice retirement place...as you can see, my days are filled with rest and relaxation. So, since I'm so far away from all of you and my special corner in your Sanctuary, my visits to see all of you will be few and far between.

Of course, I will still 'log on' to the new website so I can keep up with all that you are doing...and, if there's a potluck, I will try to make a quick visit to pick-up the crumbs! You have the BEST potlucks!

I have advised all of my relatives that have visited me in your church, so they may stop in once in awhile, too. Thank you all, for the wonderful memories,

Your 'little mouse in the corner'.

MISSIONS & EVENTS

OUR FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH IS:



CASA's mission: To provide opportunities & resources with focus for active seniors in the greater Prescott Valley area through the promotion of skills, continuing growth in education, physical & mental health, and the participation in community services and social activities. The enhancement of independent living with an emphasis on fixed or low income participants is supported through the provision of surplus food distribution, daily nourishing meals for in-house diners, and outreach to homebound seniors through our "Happy" Meals-on-Wheels Program.

CARE & NURTURE

Caring Stitchers Outreach:



As we have seen many knitted, crocheted and sewn items placed on the Altar rail to be blessed during a Worship Service...so, too, the questions being asked are: Where are these items used? Who receives them? Which care facilities do we contact? Our team would like to be transparent about the distribution, and listed here are people and places that have been blessed by receiving handmade gifts from us:

Good Samaritan Care Home, The Landings, Susan J. Rheem Adult Day Care, Arizona Oncology, Yavapai Food Bank clothing closet, Haven UMC – Jerome, Prescott UMC – Granite Creek ‘guests’, Hospice Compassus, Stepping Stones – Women & Children Shelter Items distributed: Walker bags that tie onto walkers, lap blankets, Hats and scarves, bags used to hold necessities for homeless mothers & children, sleeping mats for Granite Creek ‘guests’, bags to cover urinary collection bags, prayer shawls and afghans to church members/friends at difficult times. Please, if you know of other care facilities or persons that are in need of the type of items that we create...just let us know. The team is always looking for special projects that will improve or enhance someone’s life.

Our next project is making ‘fidget blankets’ for persons/patients with anxiety, memory problems or



Alzheimer's diagnoses – as requested by Hospice Compassus.

We meet every other Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 6 (Fellowship Hall) and invite anyone interested in helping with any of our projects...we already have plenty of yarn, some usable fabrics and lots of plastic bags that need to be cut to use for the sleeping mats. There are knitting and crochet needles, a sewing machine and an iron ready to use! Our blessing comes in seeing the appreciation ‘smiles’ when we give these gifts. Contact: Jeannie Ward cjward44@q.com 928-287-1848

OPPORTUNITIES

Ways You Can Participate in Black History Month

No matter your heritage, culture, or racial background, Black history is **EVERYONE's** story. Here are some ways you, your family, and your congregation can celebrate and participate in Black History Month (this info. is shared with us through the DSC CORR)

- Patronize a local or online Black-owned business;
- Attend church, Bible study, or worship at a historically Black church and experience the Gospel from another vantage point;
- Sing hymns or songs during worship by a composer from the African diaspora.
- Include the history of the song or hymn in the church bulletin or on your website;
- Attend or co-host a Black history or Black culture event in your community, in partnership with a Black congregation;
- Take a church family field trip to a Black history site or museum in your area;
- Learn more about "Black Harry" Hosier (c. 1750-1806), an African-American Methodist preacher and evangelist;
- Research other Black United Methodist leaders from our church's heritage;
- Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism;
- Donate to a Black nonprofit or empowerment organization in your community;
- Watch a film by and about the heritage and lives of Black people. Titles to consider: "Antwone Fisher," "Malcolm X," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "Hidden Figures," "The Hate U Give," and "One Night in Miami.";
- Watch and discuss documentaries about the Civil Rights movement and other series on the challenges and triumphs of Black people. Suggestions: "Eyes on the Prize," and Henry Louis Gates' recent series,

"The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song.";

- Visit a landmark about the lives of local Black heroes in your area;
- Read a contemporary book by a Black author; -Read a story featuring a Black hero to your children, grandchildren, or to a local school class;
- Seek out and talk with a Black elder (75 or older) about their experience in your community; Study one of the 54 nations on the continent of Africa, including the language, culture, current events;
- Donate to one of the 12 United Methodist-related historically Black colleges and universities in the United States and Zimbabwe;
- Learn about an unsung hero of Black history; Attend shows featuring local Black artists, actors, poets, local musicians, or dancers;
- Explore the breadth of Black music, from jazz to hip-hop, and gospel to southern African folk songs;
- Call out racism and prejudice aimed at Black people and other People of Color in your church and community;
- Learn about "colorism" and how it plays out in our society; Learn more about the Black UMC caucus, [Black Methodists for Church Renewal](#);
- Subscribe to and learn from Black media and the Black press;
- Engage in positive, supportive conversations about Black history and culture on social media; Learn the lyrics to "[Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing](#)";
- Read Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." The letter can be found here: [Letter from Birmingham Jail \(csuchico.edu\)](#);

For more suggestions, visit <https://dscumc.org/blog/2024/01/23/29-ways-you-can-participate-in-black-history-month/>

LAY AND CLERGY MINISTRY



Lay and clergy ministry is very difficult. It is a calling for people to set aside their time and devote themselves to the work. For the most part, we feel called to help. But, sometimes, we get in the way of our own helping because our mouths are bigger than our ears. We can become so wrapped up in trying to solve things for others before we know for sure what it is the other needs solving. We come up with solutions after hearing a word or two and take those words as our cue to what needs to be said. We are cued to respond often when no response is better than some response. We all live in a 'private universe' created in our minds over the years and decades. These ways of viewing the world have often been created from the smallest of experiences, readings, observations, and family traditions.

Join others on February 12, 2024, 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. Arizona Time (6:00–7:30 PM Nevada Time) via Zoom in a workshop setting to gain some insight into how we may best use our ears not only in ministries but also in our everyday lives. This Leadership Talk features Raymond Spooner.

REGISTER AT: <https://dscumc.org/event/leadership-talks-with-raymond-spooner/>

CONNECTIONS



This year’s topic is Conflict Management & Rebuilding Trust. The workshop will explore the five conflict management styles, take an informal conflict management style assessment, and explore ways to manage conflict. Then attendees explore the role of trust, credibility, and power in organizational culture, and consider what individuals and organizations can do when trust breaks down.

The East & West Districts Leadership Conference occurs on Saturday, February 3, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at [Cross in the Desert UMC](#) in Phoenix, AZ. Speaker: Rev. April Casperson, Director of Enrollment Management Methodist Theological School in Ohio

February 3 @ 8:30 am - 12:30 pm MST \$30.00. To register: <https://dscumc.org/event/east-west-districts-leadership-conference-2024/>





During this past church/charge conferences, the District Superintendents shared the news about a new campaign extending the 2023 Annual Conference #WeAre theme. The new campaign is #WeAreLOVE, and it is guiding the work and interactions between the District Superintendents and Bishop with our churches and each other. The campaign’s focus is LOVE. Here are the details about what the campaign stands for.

#WeAre called to LOVE, leading in LOVE, and growing in LOVE!

- L = Listen to stories, be
- O = Open to change,
- V = Value diversity, and
- E = Embody belonging in our life and work of ministry.

The guiding scriptures for this campaign are Proverbs 3:3-4 and Romans 12:10.

You’ll notice the new theme in our social media graphics, district newsletters, and messaging from now to Annual Conference 2024. Consider how this campaign might guide the ministry that you are involved in.

WINGS  - We have WINGS! Our newsletter has a new name! We Invite Neighbors to God's . WINGs for information to soar as a congregation and community to lift all up through connections, relationships and programs giving air and breath to all we do showing God's love and heart throughout.

New Newsletter Publisher - Hi all! I'm Cheri Hull here to introduce myself as your new newsletter publisher! I have a background in internal communications, worked with many organizations, including nonprofits like churches and trade associations, in many capacities, and newsletters is one of my passions. Currently, I am the Chairperson of the DSC Communication Commission. I have been the publisher of other newsletters for other small churches and think it is fun to create a publication for you to bring all the good news and happenings of your church! You'll see my hubby and I at church on occasion as we attend both PVUMC and PUMC. I look forward to meeting each of you and let's give PVUMC WINGs to soar in all we do as a community of God's love!



CHURCH INFORMATION:

 **Prescott Valley United Methodist Church**

**8944 East Sommer Drive
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-8334**

Office: (928)772-6366
Email: prescottvalleyumc@gmail.com
Website: www.prescottvalleyumc.org

Pastor Amanda Corella
 prescottvalleyumcpastor@gmail.com
 (480)751-7915

 Find us on **Facebook** @ Prescott Valley UMC
 **YouTube** @ Prescott Valley UMC

Office Hours:
 Tuesday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sunday Online Service Information
 To join our worship online, you are invited to visit our **YouTube Channel, Prescott Valley UMC**. We stream live at 10:10 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Amanda directly at prescottvalleyumcpastor@gmail.com

Address Correction Requested

Website: prescottvalleyumc.org

8944 E Sommer Dr
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 (928)772-6366



Sunday Worship Times

9:00am Adult Sunday School

9:00am Choir Rehearsal

10:15am. Worship Service

Leadership

Bishop Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

Dist. Supt. Rev. Javier Olivares

Dist. Lay Leader Jeannie Ward

Pastor Rev. Amanda Corella

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gary Simons

Lay Leader Elton Anderson

