

Mount Cross Chronicle

July 2023



601 E. Highway 260
Payson, AZ 85541
Phone: 928-474-2552
www.mountcross.org

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 a.m.
Worship/Communion Service

Livestreamed
Online Worship Service

Supply Pastor
Rev. Dana Reardon
474-2552

Music Director
Daria Mason
daria1024mason@gmail.com

Accompanist
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator
Lenore M. White
secretary@mountcross.org

Custodian
Keri Morris

Patriotic Ponderings

There was a devastating event in Arizona history that occurred in the end of June 2013. One particular wildfire stands out and was known by firefighters from all over. The event? The Yarnell Hill fire that took the lives of 19 men, known as the Granite Mountain Hotshots, who were based out of Prescott, Arizona. These men were husbands, fathers, uncles, sons, brothers...lost to their families, friends, and their community. These men gave their lives to keep a nearby area safe from the destruction rent by wildfire.

On Friday, June 30, a 10-year anniversary memorial tribute to these 19 men was held at the Yavapai Court House in Prescott, Arizona. Dignitaries who participated in the event were: Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs; Prescott Mayor Phil Goode; City of Prescott Fire Chief, Holger Durre; Department of Forestry and Fire Management State Forester, Thomas Torres; and Ryder Ashcraft, son of fallen Granite Mountain Hotshot Andrew Ashcraft. Brendan McDonough, sole survivor of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, read the Hotshot Prayer. The mournful sound of bagpipes filled the air as the Color Guard presented the United State's flag, multiple Arizona flags, and banners from various firefighting agencies. The 10 year anniversary included a proclamation that Arizona would recognize June 30th as Granite Mountain Hotshot Day. To view significant portions of this event and read more about it, you can find it at the following web address:

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2023/06/30/granite-mountain-hotshots-memorialized-10-years-after-fire-killed-19/70340312007/>

This tribute, held on a local level, brings to mind the love that our forefathers had for this nation...such love, that they were willing to step out and stand up for the freedom that we now experience each and every day. As we enter into the weekend of the commemoration of the Declaration of Independence, let us remember the sacrifices made for freedom. Most importantly, keep in mind the sacrifice made by our Lord to provide us with the ultimate freedom!

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”



“Father God, we have so much to be thankful for in this great country.

We praise you for your divine presence in our lives, and we pray for continuance. Father, we pray for your special grace, mercy, and love to wash through the hearts, minds, and souls of our American leaders.

Father, we pray for a reset. A reset of spiritual obedience, a reset of morality, a reset of love to our brothers and sisters, and a reset of love to You. We pray for this to begin right now, and we ask it all in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

A portion of an editorial in the Payson Roundup by Daniel Neuenfeldt



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity

With all the turmoil in our world, it is time for all of us to pray with vigor and faith for the well being of our planet, our people on earth, our leaders to lead with integrity, ourselves to live as God wishes us to live.

Ask for a return to loving our Father and all He provides. Instill us with a sense of peace and grace.



**God's work.
Our hands.**



Three years ago, Mount Cross began hosting the Warming Center at our east campus building. This is probably one of our best examples of helping others as Jesus commended us. At that time it was a big undertaking, and we have learned many things about helping folks as they struggle though life. We initially started with only the winter months, but things change, and now we are a center for a hot meal, a new pair of shoes or a coat, jeans, shirts, some pantry items, and showers. And yes, this all costs money.

They have a grant writer who has been successful in obtaining grants to help with the cost. As this point they are now paying the full amount rent each month to Mount Cross.

The Warming Center has recently received "qualified tax status," which means donations of \$400 for singles and \$800 for married couples can be donated directly to the Center as state tax payments, instead of paying the state directly. This will help them fund themselves in a better manner.

Now they are embarking upon a new project, *Confidence Kitchen*, where Emily teaches selected folks, who have the desire to achieve, how to work in a kitchen. All the rules on cleanliness and food preparation and taught, with the result that they complete the course with a food handlers license. In addition, she takes them to the Department of Motor Vehicle office to obtain their State of Arizona ID so that they can be hired.

These are big steps for many. The Brice's seek housing for many, refer some to mental health counseling, and work with the Christian Clinic for checkups on blood pressure and other routine health checks. "Blessing Bags" are also provided to homeless individuals at the Christian Clinic. These bags include some pop top pantry items, plus personal hygiene items, as well as a peanut butter sandwich.

I let them know that Mount Cross donates in the form of paying utilities, which are significant in winter and summer. We also donate items and money as individuals. That is all part of *God's Work, Our Hands*.

Alice Natale
Mount Cross / PHHVI liaison

Sunday Service



9:30 AM

**EVERY Sunday
In-House & Livestream**

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – May 2023)



2023 Approved Budget	\$326,229.00
Income	\$107,762.00 (33% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$87,985.00 (27% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during May 2023	\$2,100.00
Total paid out in 2023 for mortgage	\$14,325.00

Please note: above amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2023	
Mount Cross.	\$449.00

We have now made it past the middle of the 2023 year. Everything has increased in the world around us: fuel, groceries, utilities, and costs of services. Mount Cross has kept expenses down as much as possible. As mentioned before, part of this is due to not paying out a salary to a full time pastor. Thus far, this church has been blessed with ministers who have been willing to lead worship services. Contributions continue to be consistent, thanks to those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team



Our June meeting was focused on the bible study for June that addresses the concept of "now" or in Greek or Latin, "vuv" pronounced nun or "apri" pronounced arti. The gospel of John uses the word 30 times out of the 150 times. It is used throughout the New Testament, followed by Luke

who uses it 12 times in his synoptic gospel. The idea of NOW is that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are around us at all times, not focused on the past nor the future, but in the present. I have been reading a Thrivent book called "Your New Money Mindset" that goes a step further with respect to living with a healthy relationship with God. Rather than using the concept of feeling safe, they cite some concepts that may help all of us to enjoy a good relationship with time, energy and money. After much research the following ideas are cited in the book:

- "God meets my needs" and yes He does.
- "I don't think about money unless it is running short."
- "I don't worry about the future. I take each day as it comes." The power of living in a *now* state with God.
- "I pray about the big decisions in my life." Having an ongoing relationship with the now God.
- "I give to people in need, even if I barely have enough for myself." Think widow's mite.
- "Deepening my relationships with God helps me feel peaceful about the future." Living in the now. Think about Paul and Silas in prison, singing hymns and praying, after having been flogged and beaten, and then an earthquake occurred. Their bonds were broken, but they remained in prison until after the quake and they were set free. That is an example of living in faith of what God can do.

During this summer try some of the suggested ideas and see if your life can become worry free based upon your on going walk with God as at the center of your life.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



An important request from your Council President:

With the recent resignation of the member fulfilling the elected position as your Council Secretary, the Council is looking for an interested member to apply to the Council for consideration of becoming a Council Member and fulfill this critical need.

If you are interested, please contact any Council member as soon as possible. We sincerely appreciate your consideration and help with this request.

Yours in Christ,
Gary Greer, Council President

July Birthdays

- 3 Gary Wilder
- 11 Barbara Greer
- 13 Ron Nelson
- 20 Sally Rohrbach
- 21 Lynne Wayne

July Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Ray/Linda Wiebe
- 27 Clay/Audrey Ricker

July Baptisms

- 10 Clyde Longberry
- 15 Patric Taylor
- 22 Wes Hathaway
- 29 Bob Walker



Residential
ACCOMMODATIONS

*Housing Availability & Costs
in Payson area
for
Pastoral Candidates*

Members of Mount Cross:

When pastoral candidates explore the opening position at Mount Cross, they are faced with the reality of the cost/availability of housing (rental, as well as for sale) in our area.

The Synod office told our Call Committee that there were two candidates that declined an opening in Flagstaff, largely due to the cost of housing in that area. The recent candidate that was interviewed by our Call Committee expressed concern as well.

Faced with this fact, our Council will be looking for possible ways to address this subject. We ask our membership to think about innovative creative ways that we could explore to be able to support a prospective candidate with assurance that living in Payson is feasible.

Please pray that we can attract a new candidate by having an option for housing in place when an interview occurs.

Contact any of our Council members with suggestions that may be considered.

Yours in Christ,

Gary Greer
Marlu Allan
Ron Nelson

Tom Spencer
Sharon Vaplon
Barb Howe
Wayne Peterson

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Worship Services

Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook.

Sundays, 9:30 AM

WELCA Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study using the studies found in the WELCA publication "Gather". All women are welcome to attend.

2nd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.

Seekers of Truth Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study which will be focusing on the biblical prophets. All are welcome to attend.

3rd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, July 13th, at 10:00 a.m.

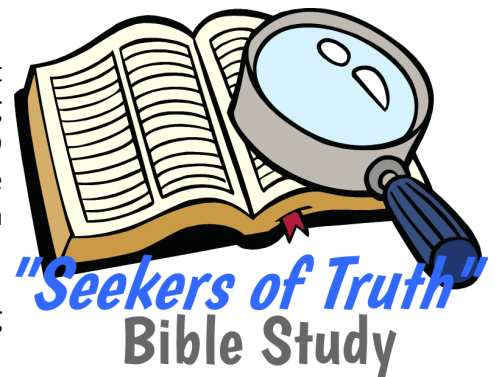
The subject of the summer Bible study is "Salvation Now" by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen. She will examine the biblical and theological reasons for not waiting for it "to all come out in the wash later," but for us to become faithful ambassadors of Jesus' salvation now. The July session, entitled "*Tangible Salvation Now – Christians Bringing Wellness,*" will focus on where there are wounds and brokenness, we are called to bring Jesus and the salvation he embodied to others!

Seekers of Truth Bible study, support, social, and friendship group, is held on the third Thursday of each month in the Ponderosa Room at 10:00 a.m. July 20th is the date for this month's meeting. Refreshments will be served; BYOB (Bring Your own Beverage).

The group continues to focus on sixteen major and minor Old Testament prophets. Members of the group will be given handouts before each meeting with information about the prophet or prophets to be discussed. There is NO book requirement. Members of the group who have study Bibles will be encouraged to read about each prophet in their own Bible and to share with the group what their Bibles say about each prophet.

The last part of the meeting will be a time for socializing, eating, and supporting each other.

Jan Bartoli is the facilitator of the group and Sue Bobek is the discussion leader. If you have questions, suggestions, or wish to be a part of this group, please call Jan at 928-517-1119 or Sue at 928-478-6166.



Church office will be closed
Monday, July 3rd
and
Tuesday, July 4th
for Independence weekend