



THE WELCOMING WORD – AUGUST 2018

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FLAGSTAFF

(A Covenant Church of the United Church of Christ)

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From the Pastor's Desk...

As I perused my “Summer” file, I ran across the following entitled “When is Summer?” I have had it in my files well over thirty years. It was written by a friend and colleague, Charles O. Erickson.

Chuck was a thoughtful pastor and confidant, who had a full ministry, but who died too early. I enjoyed reading his articles because Chuck always had something stimulating to say with an efficiency of words. I share this with you in order for you to experience the flavor of one whom I remember fondly.

When Is Summer?

Most of us are chasing full calendars trying to keep up. We work too long, play too little, eat too much, and meditate rarely. Summer is walks on the beach, lying in the sun, enjoying flowers, and appreciating long evenings of light. Summer is when we can stop to ask the meaning of our rushing and striving.

We use the light for seeing our lives reflected in mind and emotion as we gaze at the clouds. Or, we use the light for more frantic pursuits of getting things finished. Summer is when light creates enlightenment.

James M. Barrie wrote: “the life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he hoped to make it.” Summer is when we face reality and find either dismay or serenity.

The purpose, the aim, the goal of life is destiny. Our faith is that God is our source and our end. Summer is when we worship to put our lives in the hands of God, when we join the fellowship of the ages by using worship resources to let the peace which passes understanding flow through us.

Summer is anytime. In our piece of geography, summer is when all that happens in nature helps us get closer to the basics of who we are and who we intend to become.

Happy vacation to you.
Happy reflections in you.

Happy restoration and renewal for you.
Summer is wishing you new life. Summer is when Spirit enlivens us with new vitality and direction. May God bless us each with a summer filled with fun and promise.

Shalom
George Ault
Interim Pastor



Member Spotlight

Thoughts on Randy Wilson—From Sandy Znetko
He and Lindsay bought the house formerly owned by Judy and Neil Kunze, and across the street from Linda and Don Gilbert, all members of FCCF. Randy said they wanted to keep the house in the church family.



He served on three consecutive Pastoral Search Committees.

With unbridled energy he often gave the Children's lesson on Sunday morning. Many would say the lessons were more entertaining than the sermon.

For years he led the Education commission and taught Sunday School.

Randy took over coordinating the volunteers at the Family Food Center. When there were not enough church members to help he would recruit people from the Daily Sun to assist.

For several years every month he single-handedly loaded the Sunday food collection into his car and delivered it to the Food Bank.

For a number of years, he bought a Christmas tree for the sanctuary. When it was decided a fresh tree was not practical he arranged the purchase of an artificial one.

Every Christmas Eve Randy set out luminarias. He would collect empty gallon milk jugs, fill the bottom with sand and put in tea lights. He often solicited the youth to help with lining the driveway with the jugs and light them just before worship.

He could rake and bag pine needles faster than anyone else, often finishing two or three to someone else's completion of filling one bag.

In the Spring, Summer, and Fall he led hikes throughout Flagstaff and Sedona. In the winter he would arrange snow shoeing or cross-country sky outings. He also led

CROP walks for the congregation, helping raise over \$1,500 for the benefit of Church World Service.

Randy was a long-time member of FCCF, he passed away on July 7th, 2018 after bicycle riding with his family. He will be greatly missed by all the congregants of FCCF and his family remains in our prayers daily. Additional articles on this amazing person can be found in the Arizona Daily Sun newspaper.

Fragrant Rice (Susannah Carnie)

This is surely fragrant and definitely colorful but not outstanding in flavor. Since peppers are predominantly in Portuguese cooking, I added the Portuguese flag color peppers for their vibrant color and flavor.



Ingredients:

1 ½ Onions, chopped

1 Tbs. Butter

1 Inch Stick Cinnamon

4 Whole cloves

1 tsp. Salt

1 Clove garlic, minced

½ tsp. Ginger powder

2 Cups Rice, Basmati recommended

3 ¾ Cups Boiling Water

½ tsp. Ground Turmeric

In a deep lidded pan, sauté the onions in the butter.

Add the Cinnamon, Cloves, Salt, Garlic, and Ginger. Gently stir fry for 1 minute.

Add rice.

Add boiling water to rice mixture. When it returns to boiling add the Turmeric. Reduce the heat, cover, and simmer for 15 minutes. Turn heat off and let covered rice stand for 5 minutes.

Recipe originally from "Portuguese Cooking" by Carol Robertson.

IS ON-DEMAND CULTURE CHANGING US?

"Not a Lick Smarter"

Back in 2011, comedian Pete Holmes announced to his audience on the *Conan* show that he had an iPhone, adding, "I have Google on my phone now. . . . It's ruining life because we know everything, but we're not a lick smarter for it. . . . You don't know something? Wait two seconds. You will



know! Having Google on your phone is like having a drunk know-it-all in your pocket. There's no time for mystery or wonder. . . . The time between not knowing and knowing is so brief that . . . life is meaningless."

In the past decade, we've seen an explosion in what might be called "on-demand" culture. Whenever we want, we can watch practically any movie ever made on Netflix or Amazon Prime; we can see what our friends and acquaintances are up to from minute to minute through their most recent Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts; and we can text or email anyone in our contact list whenever the feeling hits us, whether they live down the street or on the other side of the earth.

Research indicates that this culture of convenience and constant access has changed us. As people of faith, we're challenged to understand how these cultural shifts have changed who we are and to figure out how to respond to these changes in keeping with our traditions and our values.

Darrell Worthy, an assistant professor of psychology at Texas A&M University says "A lot of things that are really valuable take time. But immediate gratification is the default response. It's difficult to overcome those urges and be patient and wait for things to come over time." In other words, our use of technology may help us do things more quickly, but at the expense of depth and meaning.

A desire for wonder and mystery is a good place to start counteracting our on-demand culture, especially when the 24/7 cycle of news and information is instantly available through our smartphones and social media offers us a constant forum to chat about it. Jesus modeled for us the value of taking time for solitude, contemplation and prayer in the midst of his public ministry. He took time for moments of awe and wonder and recommended the same to his disciples: "Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28b-29).

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, calls contemplation "a positive choosing of the deep, shining, and enduring divine mysteries that are hidden beneath the too-easy formulas." Among those enduring mysteries are love, creation, beauty, justice, and wisdom, none of which can be reduced to mere information. Rohr says that in contemplative prayer, "we let go of habitual thoughts and sensations and connect with an Inner Witness (Romans 8:16)— God's presence within — that gazes back at ourselves and out at reality with an Abiding Love."

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9052/is-on-demand-culture-changing-us?>

AUGUST CALENDAR

5 10:30 AM- SUNDAY WORSHIP "TRAVELING LIGHT" (COMMUNION)

6 5:30PM - AA MEETING

7 12:00PM - PRAYER CIRCLE

9 08:00AM - FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

9 6:00 PM - PASTOR SEARCH MEETING

12 10:30AM- SUNDAY WORSHIP "I'LL BE SEEING YOU" (POT LUCK)

13 5:30PM - AA MEETING

15 12:00PM - WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

18 1:30PM - KNIT WITS

19 10:30AM - SUNDAY WORSHIP "YOU GOTTA BE YOU"

19 3:30PM - FAMILY FOOD BANK

20 5:30PM - AA MEETING

23 12:00 - WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

26 10:30 - SUNDAY WORSHIP "THE LAST THING YOU SHOULD BELIEVE"

26 12:00PM - COUNCIL MEETING

27 5:30 - AA MEETING

30 5:30 - AA MEETING

**Please join us in celebrating the Church's
60th Anniversary on September 23rd!**

Celebrating

60



Years...