

La Palabra

March 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

A Reflection for Lent ~ A Different Kind of Fasting

- Fast from judging others... Feast on Christ dwelling in each*
- Fast from seeing differences... Feast on the Spirit in all life*
- Fast from apparent darkness... Feast on the reality of light*
- Fast from thoughts of illness... Feast on the healing power of God*
- Fast from words that pollute... Feast on phrases that support or confirm*
- Fast from discontent... Feast on gratitude*
- Fast from anger... Feast on patience*
- Fast from worry... Feast on trust in God's Providence*
- Fast from complaining... Feast on appreciation*
- Fast from hostility... Feast on non-violence*
- Fast from bitterness... Feast on forgiveness*
- Fast from self-concern... Feast on compassion for others*
- Fast from discouragement... Feast on hope*
- Fast from lethargy... Feast on enthusiasm*
- Fast from idle gossip... Feast on prayerful silence*
- Fast from suspiciousness... Feast on Truthful Relationships*
- Fast from the shadows of injustice... Feast on the Son of Justice*

For Reflection: Read slowly each of these different kinds of fasting/feasting; be aware of which ones seem to challenge you; focus on those to which you are called to Fast/Feast during this Lent; you may wish to share these with a friend for mutual accountability.

~ Ann

INDEX

<i>A Message from Ann</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Discipleship</i>	3
<i>Mission</i>	4
<i>Fellowship</i>	5
<i>Administration</i>	6
<i>March Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>Thank You</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	Website

WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Nate Robinson
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen
Worship (D) — Gail Soderquist

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

"The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit." - Johann Sebastian Bach

FPC Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. We will have six notable levels of donation: Fermata (\$1,000 & Up), Whole Note (\$500 - \$999), Half Note (\$200 - \$499), Quarter Note (\$100 - \$199), Eighth Note (\$50 - \$99), Sixteenth Note (\$25 - \$49). Artist Series concert fees range from \$300 - \$2,000. If you would like to contribute financially, checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church," with memo notation "Artist Series" and sent to: Mark Ramsey, First Presbyterian Church, 161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa, AZ, 85201-6794. Contributors will be listed in future concert programs or, if requested, will remain anonymous. For more information on our Artist Series, please contact the Music Office, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Current donors are listed on the [Artist Series](#) page of our church website.



Get yer tickets! The First Players will present their 23rd annual theatrical production on March 22, 23, and 24, including a Sunday matinée. The show will be **ANNIE GET YOUR GUN**. Join the First Players as they show us that "There's No Business Like Show Business!" They will present Kate Buck as "Annie Oakley" and John Couillard as "Frank Butler." Tickets are available on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall, in the Church Office during the week, and online at fpcmesa.org/firstplayers. ANNIE GET YOUR GUN scored a bulls eye when it returned to Broadway in 1999, sporting a revised libretto by Tony, Oscar, and Emmy winner Peter Stone. Stone reshaped the 1946 book to create a Wild West show-within-a-show that frames the ageless 'Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better' love story of sharpshooters Annie and Frank. Joined to the new book, of course, is the amazing Irving Berlin score, featuring hit after hit after hit. "Irving Berlin's greatest achievement in the theater," wrote the New York Post, ANNIE GET YOUR GUN "will always be a musical for the ages, one of the Broadway theater's enduring triumphs."

We will observe Ash Wednesday with a special worship service Wednesday, March 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in Fox Chapel. Come and join our Wednesday WRAP groups in this service of worship, prayer, and meditation as we begin the Lenten season.

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary, please sign up today at the table during coffee time or pick up a form on the kiosk or in the church office. Fresh lilies may be purchased for \$10. The lilies may be taken after worship on Easter Sunday. Orders must be received in the church office no later than Monday, April 15th.

Coming Events

- 3/3 Women's Sunday
- 3/6 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 3/22-24 First Players Dinner-Theaters: [Annie Get Your Gun](#)
- 4/14 Worship & BBQ at Pioneer Park, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/28 (Sunday) Pure Praise Singers Musical: Colby's Missing Memory, 4:00 p.m.
- 5/5 (Sunday) FPC Salsa Challenge

Humoresque

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing." - Psalm 2:4

Poster found in a church in France (translated): "When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God." However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place, and talk to him. If you want to see Him, send him a text while driving." [from Carol Gerlach]

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. —
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) —



Spring has Sprung at the Preschool and that means everything is new! New themes and new adventures! We are celebrating new life, too, by studying pond life, insects and bugs. We will be hosting our annual Preschool Carnival on March 6th during the school day and would love to have you join us! Our latest discoveries around our campus have included having the Mesa Fire Department bring their fire truck, making volcanoes, and spending time outside blowing bubbles in this great weather! We also had a visit from Officer

Camberg from the Tempe Police Department that the kids really enjoyed.

We are gearing up for open registrations for the new school year. We need your help getting the word out about our little patch of heaven, our Preschool. Did you know that our preschool has an 80% referral rate? That means that people know how great our program is because of voices like yours in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations for the Fall 2019 school year starting on March 18th and have plenty of space in both of our classrooms. Scholarships are available through income qualifications. Please send family, friends and people you see playing in the park our way. Thank you!

Lastly, if you would like to donate snacks to our program, please let me know. We would greatly appreciate the help this year. The kids love fishy crackers, cheese sticks, fresh fruit (citrus, apples, bananas etc.), veggies, pretzels, corn chips and the list goes on. No nuts or nut-based items, please. We have really appreciated the donations from the Presbyterian Women and thank God for all of your love and support.

We hope you have a wonderful spring season and may God bless your family.

Shiloh Murillo, Director

MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam

Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak
Marketing (E) —

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Shelley Cronenberg
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

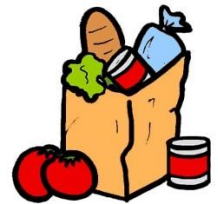


Don't miss out! Café Justo order is ready to be placed in early March. Look for it to be on sale in Fellowship Hall March 24th and 31st! Get your coffee while it lasts! Next sales won't be until June or July.

Congregational Surveys for the Mission Trip were distributed and completed on January 27th. Wow! What a great response! Lots of people committed to prayer. Three people indicated they would like a pen pal, and we will hopefully have some names for corresponding when we come back from the trip. Many in the congregation committed to financial support and have in fact made those contributions. Together we are participating in God's call to mission!

Mission Trip Delegation will be in Aqua Prieta the week of March 9th-15th. They are prepared in heart and mind to see what God will show them, how God will engage them, and how God will allow them to experience Christianity being lived out in the Ministries of Frontera de Cristo as they build relationships with our partners in mission. The delegation will share about the trip in both services on Sunday, March 24th.

Food Pantry - The 4th Sunday of the month is our monthly Food Drive and our Pantry is in need of restocking! Due to the loss of funding from Sagewood Senior Living Community (\$32,000/year), our needs are increasing in order to maintain our prior level of operation and serve the needs of those suffering food insecurity in our neighborhood. Please help if you are able with donations of food or funds. If writing a check, please indicate "Food Pantry" on the memo line and place it in the offering plate. **Our current needs are primarily meat products like tuna fish, canned chicken or beef, ravioli, beef stew, chili and also cereal. Thank you!**



One Great Hour of Sharing is during the season of Lent. We will kick off this special offering with a Minute for Mission on Sunday, March 24th. Envelopes will be in the pews that Sunday.

This season of giving runs through Easter, April 21st. As in the past there will be a banner with fishes on it to show the hundreds of dollars you so generously give. "Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, opportunity. The three programs supported by the OGHS are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People. All work in different ways to serve individuals in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope." (PCUSA World Mission)

Blue Out Sunday for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will be Sunday, March 31st. Wear your blue in support of this vital program that responds initially to disaster and then sustains support throughout the rebuilding of lives afterwards.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Transportation (D) — Steve Muth
Older Adult (E) — David Jurgensen

Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey
Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Hardng

Fellowship Deacon — Katie Masterson
Fellowship Deacon — Carol Strouse
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman
Youth Elder — Ian Harding

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! More events are in the planning stages, so stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!

- March 22nd thru 24th — Dinner theater in Fellowship Hall
- April 14th — Worship at the Pioneer Park at 10:00 a.m. with a BBQ afterwards
- May 5th — Salsa challenge



March 3rd is Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday. We are blessed to have Pastor Amy Poling Sutherlun as our guest speaker for that Sunday. She grew up in Texas and New Mexico, the middle child of a 6th generation pastor. She started her education with a Master's in Teaching, and then went on to Princeton Theological Seminary. Ordained to pastoral ministry, she first served in Huntington, West Virginia. She currently co-pastors First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, Texas. Amy has shared the last 15 years with her husband, Joshua, and they are the parents of four children. Amy is the author of this year's Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "God's Promise, I Am With You." We heard Amy speak in Kentucky at the Church-wide Gathering and know that she will touch minds and hearts, as she did each of ours. Please invite friends and family. Thank you Lydia and Deborah circles for coordinating this event.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone. An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again. The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers. Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?" "Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies. "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank, as a way of keeping up the family bond." The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon the "Man Who Orders Three Beers" became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink. Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening. He orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers. The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of one of your brothers. You know-the two beers and all." The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that both my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, me-self, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

ADMINISTRATION

Property (E) (Chair) — Robert Harding
 Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach
 Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

Personnel (D) — Susan McMichael
 Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Michael Gerlach
 Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

Per Capita? What does *that* mean?

You may be vaguely aware of the term “per capita” and the annual request to contribute to your personal portion of our “per capita” offering to our denomination. As a commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly, I have a new appreciation for the importance of this budgetary item since it is used to offset the cost of bringing Presbyterians together for our bi-annual meeting of the minds and hearts to discern God’s will and God’s way forward together! Here is some information you may find helpful about per capita:

- ❖ Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future.
- ❖ It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers.
- ❖ It is how Presbyterians discern God’s call in their lives.
- ❖ It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on GA committees and commissions.
- ❖ It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with “all persons in every nation” (Book of Order, G-4.0101)

Why is per capita important?

Per capita brings Presbyterians together — literally!

Presbyterians are connected in many ways, including our church government. We believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as mid councils, “seek[ing] together to find and represent the will of Christ” (*Book of Order* F-3.0204). Per capita dollars pay for the costs of holding a General Assembly — including paying for the travel, room and board of commissioners and advisory delegates, several of whom would not be able to afford these expenses on their own.

Per capita makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we do.

Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to undergird our governance system. Our Constitution provides a moral and theological compass that builds community and calls us to Christian faithfulness in gratitude to God.

**The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved an increase in Per Capita Apportionment of 38 cents for 2017 and an additional 23 cents for 2018. This is to cover general operating budget needs and financial implications approved by commissioners of the General Assembly. As a commissioner at this Assembly, I can assure you that the financial implications were taken seriously into consideration in each and every vote that was taken and your funds are being used wisely and well to witness to God’s present and coming reign!

Officers Elected at the February 24th Congregational Meeting

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	Carol Anderson, Personnel	2022
Shelley Cronenberg, Mission	2022	David Miller, Fellowship	2022
Brent Gregory, Stewardship/Finance	2022	Anita Ramsey, Fellowship	2022
Kyle Harding, Youth/Young Adult	2022	Sue Eisenklam, Mission	2022
Dan Reeves, Worship	2021		
Will Snitzer, Youth	2020	<u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>	
Dennis Sitzler	2022	Michael Gerlach, Deacon	2022
		Allan Schultz, At large	2022
		Helen Thielke, At large	2022
<u>DEACONS</u>			
Michael Gerlach, Nominating	2022		
Dale Gibson, Seasonal Ministries	2021		

March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Adam Cronenberg	1st
Cleta Enck	1st
Carol Letizia	3rd
Joyce Baum	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Dennis Sitzler	9th
Helen Lents	11th
Marilu Thompson	12th
Jasmine Couillard	15th
Pam Godfrey	16th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Marilyn Uithoven	20th
Caroline Cline	25th
Joshua Anderson	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Frances Kaufmann	31st
Bill Lents	31st

Editor's Note: If your birthday is missing or we have the wrong date, please call the office so we can update our records. We wish a special day to anyone we have missed.

Calendar Notes

March 3

Women's Sunday

March 6

Ash Wednesday
(Service at 7:00 p.m. in Fox Chapel)

March 9-15

Mission Trip to Aqua Prieta, Mexico

March 11 & 12

Circles meet

March 17

Commission & Session meet

March 22, 23

Annie Get Your Gun Dinner Theater

March 24

Annie Get Your Gun Matinee Theater

March 30

Annie Get Your Gun Cast Party

March 31

Monthly Food Drive



Thank you to our Dear Church Family for your cards and notes of sympathy upon the passing of my father. We love you all and are thankful to be supported by such wonderful friends.

Love, blessings, and peace,
Mark

*First Presbyterian Church
161 N. Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201*

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

**First Presbyterian Church
161 North Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201
Phone: 480-964-8606
E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Website: www.fpcmesa.org**

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon**

**Ann Conklin, Pastor
Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director
Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus
Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus**