

# La Palabra

March 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## A Message from David

### Awakening our Child-likeness



What a lovely surprise, to open my office door and find some of God's amazing little animals grazing in the courtyard! My first reaction was that maybe our property committee had found a new way to mow the lawn in the courtyard! And then, when I heard the children running out of the preschool with great excitement, I realized it was *Petting Zoo Day*.

Chief Seattle, in his famous address to Congress in 1854, said, *When the white man kills the last Buffalo, he will die of boredom!* It was a Native American reminding us all that God provides wildlife, not only for their role in our life-sustaining environment, but also because God intends for us to enjoy, and be entertained by them.



I offer these pictures as a way of reminding us all that perhaps the greatest change we need to make in our interim season is to reawaken the sense of wonder and excitement for life that comes so naturally to children.

We are a church whose membership is aging, and that certainly is not unique to our congregation, but perhaps one of the ways to draw the young into our family of faith is to learn to see the world through their eyes, to experience the present with spontaneous excitement, to enjoy the great variety of moments that bless us and challenge us to grow, and in it all, to thank God daily for entertainment that heaven provides to all who live upon the earth.

On March 25th we are turning our campus into a playground for ourselves and our neighborhood. It will be a time to celebrate with excitement the playfulness of youth and the fellowship of community, a time to meet new neighbors by being good neighbors. It is an event for which there are no spectators, for the joy of neighboring is to participate in the fun of being together.

I look forward to sharing that amazing experience with all of you.

Blessings abound,  
David

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## WORSHIP

Worship (E) – Dan Reeves  
Dir. Of Music Ministries (Chair) – Mark Ramsey  
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen  
Worship (D) — Cheryl Gregory  
Worship (D) – Sheilah Dye

### Mark's Remarks

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

“Everything must be possible.” - J. S. Bach



Karen Rudin correctly guessed Susan McMichael, the January Mystery Band Member, and Glenn Bennett correctly guessed Bob Gerlach as the February Mystery Member. Here is our March Band Member! Send guesses to [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org). All are invited to send to the same email address a band-uniform-clad photo of themselves!



IT'S ALMOST TIME! We'll gather with our FPC congregation and community on Saturday, March 25th, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for the FPC Neighborhood Family Fun Day! Committees have been hard at work, and each needs helpers. Please signup [HERE](#). The big event will include Music, Games, Bounce Houses, Food, and Entertainment! Music will include a live DJ, a secular set from our HolyGrounds Praise Band, a guest vocal duo, and a brief Brubeck reprise from the Paul Soderquist Percussion & Piano Duo. It will be a fun and memorable event to share with our families, friends, and neighbors. Mark your calendars!

Dr. Glenn Bennett and I will offer special music during our worship service of baptism and praise on Sunday, March 26th. The centerpiece of worship will be a Kenyan baptism, which will be simulcast by our church and the family's home church. Music will include vocal solos, songs of praise and worship, and a powerful transcription from Gustav Holst's "The Planets." We will visit with our celestial neighbors and remember our sacred baptism through the eyes of a beautiful, newborn child of God.

Our FPC Children & Youth will carry palm branches into the Sanctuary to begin our Palm Sunday worship service on April 2nd. If you have palm branches to donate, please contact the Church Office at (480) 964-8606.



Each March, we invite members to become Artist Series Patrons. FPC Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our Patrons. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. We have six notable levels of giving: Sixteenth Note (\$25-\$49), Eighth Note (\$50-\$99), Quarter Note (\$100-\$199), Half Note (\$200-\$499), Whole Note (\$500-\$999), and Fermata (\$1,000 & Up). 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. Patrons will be acknowledged 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 Patrons are listed on the [Artist Series](#) page of our church website.

## Coming Events

- 3/25 (Saturday) FPC Neighborhood Family Fun Event, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Music, Games, Bounce Houses, Food, and Entertainment)
- 3/26 Artist Series: Worship-Concert with Dr. Glenn Bennett and Dr. Mark Ramsey, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/2 Palm Sunday
- 4/9 Easter Sunday!

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary, please sign up during Sunday Coffee Time. Order forms are also available on the Sanctuary Kiosk and in the Church Office, or they may be completed [online](#). Orders must be received by Monday, March 20th. Fresh lilies are \$10 and may be taken after worship on Easter Sunday.

## Humoresque

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

"WHERE is my SUNDAY paper ?!" The irate customer calling the newspaper office loudly demanded to know where her Sunday edition was. "Madam," said the newspaper employee, "Today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY". There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, "Well..., that explains why no one was at church either...." [from Ainslie Read]



The FPC PW Circles have continued Celebrating Sabbath, with recent lessons on "Sabbath and Servitude" and "Sabbath and Hospitality." Service without Sabbath is servitude; all Christians providing service must find time for Sabbath, a time of rest and reflection with God. Hospitality along with Sabbath yields love for one another, for every person, while never expecting others to sacrifice their Sabbath for your sake. So much to think about while learning to Celebrate Sabbath!

A highlight of our post holiday activities was preparing and distributing Epiphany Star Words for all who desired one. Each person is asked to prayerfully select a random word which will then offer purpose, focus for reflection and inspiration for the coming year. If you did not receive your Star Word, contact Carol Anderson.

Our Sewing Grace Group, small but mighty, continues to bless PW and the congregation and beyond with their time and talents. Sara McWhorter continues to contribute prayer pocket quilts for everyone, to keep and to share with others, to remind each recipient that God is always with us. These inspirational quilt squares are traveling throughout the world already!



# DISCIPLESHIP

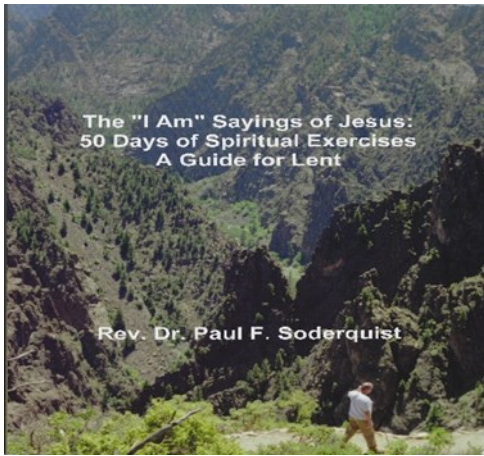
Min. of Faith Formation — Chris McKee  
 Adult (E) —  
 Discipleship (D) – Anita Ramsey

Children’s Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko  
 Youth/Young Adult (E) — Ian Harding

## March Faith Formation Happenings

### Sunday School Opportunities.

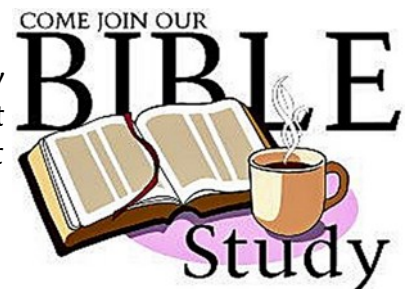
AGE	LOCATION	CURRICULUM
Children	Jackson	Growing in Grace and Gratitude
Adults	Library	I Am Sayings



**Adult Lenten Study.** The Adult Sunday School Class announces a Lenten study, February 26th - April 9th. All are welcome. The book is *“The ‘I Am’ Sayings of Jesus: 50 Days of Spiritual Exercises – A Guide for Lent,”* written by Paul Soderquist. Self-published and available at Lulu.com. For more information, contact Paul at 480.740.8730.



**Koinonia Women’s Bible Study.** The Koinonia Women’s Bible Study meets via Zoom on Thursdays from 2:30—4:00 p.m. Their current study is “Help is Here” by Max Lucado. Please contact Karen Rudin at 480-233-1043 for more information.



### Two Children's Choir Opportunities:

Kids Praise Singers (Sunday School Children)

Rehearse the first 10 minutes of Sunday School, Jackson

Pure Praise Voices (Grades 2-8)

Wednesdays 4:45- 5:25 p.m., Choir Room

Focus on singing basics and theater



**Wednesday WRAP.** Join us at Wednesday WRAP on March 1, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. WRAP is dinner, fellowship and Bible study for children and adults. Our curriculum is "Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living." Our series is focusing on Living in Community. Simply sign-up at the door.



Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 9, following worship

### Montlure Overnight Camps:

Senior High Camp June 20-25, 2023

Junior High Camp June 27-July 1, 2023

4-6 Grades July 5-9, 2023

Register at [Montlure.org](http://Montlure.org). Partial campership available on our church website.

Blessings,

Chris McKee

Minister of Faith Formation

[chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)



## MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg  
Pastor – David Hodgson  
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark  
Assimilation (D) — Deborah Rosen

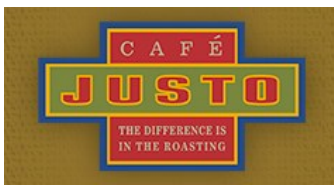
Mission (D) – Sue Eisenklam  
Mission (D) – Robert Harding  
Seasonal Ministries (D) – Dale Gibson  
Youth Elder -- Aaron Chesko



**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** special offering is taken during the season of Lent. This season of giving starts February 22nd and runs through Easter, April 9th. 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 and communities 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)

**Mission Trip Save the Date \*UPDATE\*** – The new dates for the 2023 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona, will be **July 2nd – 7th**. We need volunteers! So if you have gone before or always wanted to do a mission trip, perhaps this is the perfect trip for you. We hope that you prayerfully consider coming. More information will be provided, but our interest list will begin now. Please reach out to Shelley Cronenberg (480-239-1289) if you would like to be on the list to receive updates.



**Café Justo** orders for March can be done via the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall through March 12th and then the order will be placed. Don't miss your chance to order this delicious coffee. Next orders will not be until June.

**The Food Pantry needs your continued help!** In the past, United Food Bank helped us source most of the donations needed to help us run our Food Pantry. We recently lost these food donations and could really use your help. If you prefer to donate money instead, please make sure to put Food Pantry in the memo line. Please feel free to bring with you the following items which are collected every Sunday:

- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- A protein (canned chicken, tuna, chili, etc.)
- Toilet Paper is also requested regularly



## ADMINISTRATION

Property (E) (Chair) — Dave Frederick  
 Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach  
 Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

Personnel (D) — Roma Naccarato  
 Nominating (E) — Marcy Snitzer

Nominating (D) — Anita Ramsey  
 Stewardship/Finance (E) — Brent Gregory

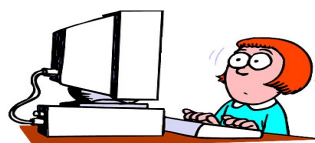
### Property Update

You probably noticed pallets of roofing tile parked east of the sanctuary. All supplies needed for the roof replacement project are now in place and work has begun. The plan is to remove and replace red tiles from the Chapel, Fellowship Hall, office, and youth wing. Workers will be on-site beginning Monday, February 27, for two weeks. Everyone should be aware that construction materials may be present. For the safety of everyone on our campus, please note these changes to entry/exit, playground, and parking access.

1. On school days the breezeway gate will be closed to students and parents.
2. The north gate should be used for pick up and drop off of Preschool, Head Start, and early Head Start students.
3. On weekends the breezeway gate will be available for church and Sunday school.
4. Some parts of the playground will be closed as work migrates across roof areas.
5. Parking will be restricted near the office, Trinity building, nursery, Head Start, and sanctuary.

Secondly, a quick solar update. I'm happy to report that the solar panels installed on the Trinity building in 2021 are working great! In 2022 alone they generated over 17,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. I have been up to check on them a couple of times, and they hardly collect any dust, which is good for efficiency. As power prices continue to rise these will prove to be a good investment.

Please be careful around construction areas,  
 Dave Frederick



### Notes from February's Session Meeting

Pastor David said he was very happy with the participation in Calvin University's January Series for 2023 (January 9th — 27th) that we hosted remotely for the first time. He said we should consider participating next year.

Session approved the March 26th baptism of a baby who had been approved for baptism at a Presbyterian Church in Maryland, but the mother and her baby had to relocate to Mesa to care for her sister who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pastor David has invited the Maryland church to worship online with us and participate in the baby's baptism! Ain't technology grand?

The Clerk reported that our membership is unchanged from last month at 240. Communion by intinction was held in worship on January 3rd and was taken to those who are unable to attend in person. The averaged January attendance figures were 75 in-person and 65 online.

From the Commissions and Committees:

Administration	Work will begin on installing a new roof on Fellowship Hall, the Chapel and the Youth wing. Breezeway foot traffic Monday thru Friday from February 27 to March 10 will be restricted. Preschool and Head Start drop-off and pick-up traffic will take place at the north gates instead of the main parking lot.
Finance	Session approved the 2023 Budget.
Discipleship	The Wednesday WRAP planning meeting went well. They decided to meet from 5:30 to 6:30, shortening the time by one hour. The last WW meeting for the school year will be 4/26 at Organ Stop Pizza. The Preschool Board is holding parent meetings. The moms who have been attending seem happy to participate in the discussions.
Mission	The Mission Trip with Montlure is July 2 thru the 7.
Worship	A new baptism font bowl has been ordered and will arrive before the 3/26 baptism.
Presbyterian Women	Session approved their request to hold the PWP Fall Gathering here on Saturday, 10/7.

# Neighborhood Family Fun Day

Saturday March 25th  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

FREE FOOD GAMES MUSIC



First Presbyterian Church  
161 N. Mesa Dr. Mesa, AZ



## March Birthdays



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
Pam Robles	16th
Dick Baird	18th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Marilyn Uithoven	20th
Caroline Cline	25th
Joshua Anderson	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.

FPC Staff emails are listed below. Staff cell phone numbers are listed in the church directory.

David Hodgson: [pastor@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmesa.org)  
Mark Ramsey: [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org)  
Chris McKee: [chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)  
Linda Reeves: [pubs@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pubs@fpcmesa.org)  
Don Krill: [buildings@fpcmesa.org](mailto:buildings@fpcmesa.org)  
Rob Kjar: [business@fpcmesa.org](mailto:business@fpcmesa.org)

## Calendar Notes

### March

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In person or online

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

### March 1 & 15

Women's Bible Study

### March 1, 8, 22 & 29

WRAP meets

### March 5

Deacons meet

### March 12

Women's Sunday

### March 13 & 14

Circles meet

### March 19

Session meets

### March 25

Neighborhood Fun Day

### March 26

Ramsey-Bennett Concert in worship



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

**LA PALABRA**

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Closed Friday**

**David Hodgson, Interim Pastor  
Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries  
Chris McKee, Minister of Faith Formation  
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications  
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director  
Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor  
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper  
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**