

La Palabra

June 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

On A Hill Not So Far Away

My second home growing up was Vermont. We vacationed there in summer, and frequently returned to enjoy the brilliant foliage of autumn. Among the pictures my eyes have placed on the canvass of my mind is the image of tall white steeples rising up above the colorful Vermont landscape. I remember thinking as a child that they were all pointing to God as if to give God the praise for creating such beauty.



Today our experience of church is changing, and I've chosen the symbol of a cross on top of an internet signal to represent the reality of being a church in a post-COVID world. Some of us are willing and able to meet in person for worship, and others of necessity or personal preference choose to be part of the online congregation.

I sense that the online church works well for those of us who remember what it's like to be part of a singing, praying, worshiping congregation, because we can temporarily translate the experience into a technological environment. But in the long run, I wonder what the church will look like when the only exposure a generation has to the spiritual vitality of a congregation is by podcasts, live streaming, remote learning in safe spaces.

That having been said, however, we are now able to be together in both virtual space and in visual space at the same time. And my hope is that those who travel or move to summer locations will continue to be present with us by worshiping regularly as part of our online congregation.

After all, there may not be any steeples across the landscape of the internet, but by worshipping together there we can still raise the cross and celebrate the unconditional love of God for us all. And that cross may be on a hill, not so far away.

David

INDEX

<i>A Message from David</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Mission</i>	6
<i>June Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>In Memoriam</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	website

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@FPCMESEA.ORG

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



Calling all singers and instrumentalists! Summer Music will begin on June 12th, and there will be opportunities for solo and ensemble singing, ringing, and playing! We will continue with one worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and summer music will continue through our Labor Day Sunday Hymn Festival! If you would like to participate, please leave a message at music@fpcmesa.org or (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Together, let's share a joyful song unto The Lord.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, our morning anthem will be “The Majesty & Glory of Your Name,” a powerful and beautiful anthem by Tom Fettke. The choir will be directed by Dr. Glenn Bennett, and Bea Towe and I will accompany. During the anthem, a video will display the anthem lyrics and images of God’s majestic creation both near and far. Such images as galaxy clusters and crowded city streets will remind us of both the nearness and expanse of God’s love and creation. Join us in worship for this beautiful celebration of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit also leads us in celebration of our church’s teachers, officers, and mission!

We are gathering congregation band photographs! The photos will be put into a collage, “The Band of Angels.” We’ll share the collage in a future newsletter to see who can guess the most musicians! Select photos of you wearing your band/concert uniform, especially those from years ago, so guessing will be more of a challenge! Photos from any grade level will be welcome! If you were in concert/marching band and have a photo to share, please email me a copy.



Coming Events

- 6/5 Pentecost Sunday
- 6/9-12 CarePortal Mission Trip

Humoresque

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



[from Karen Rudin]



FPC Presbyterian Women concluded the year with their May Circle meetings and a Spring Luncheon. It was with a bit of sadness the Bible study on Jesus' grandmothers was completed; it was a thought-provoking and enjoyable look at marginalized women in Jesus' genealogy who influenced his work and life. Next year's study, Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight, also appears to be engaging and self-fulfilling.

The Spring Luncheon on May 14 provided fabulous salads and desserts, warm fellowship and a program full of inspiration. Hearts, Hands and Voices enacted a touching version of "You Raise Me Up," and Chris Casanova from University Presbyterian and Moderator Elect of our Synod spoke about "Strategizing for the Future." Revised FPC PW By-laws were approved. Carol Anderson was installed as the new FPCPW Moderator, and Joyce Baum was installed as the new CT Secretary. Sara McWhorter and Susan Durand were recognized for their dedicated service as officers in FPC PW. Beautiful quilts made by Sara McWhorter and Suzi Payton and Sara's pocket quilts were presented to the Mission Commission for the Care Portal Mission Trip. Guests and FPC friends enjoyed this special time of fellowship as sisters in Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP

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

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

June Faith Formation Happenings

Christian Education Appreciation Day. Christian formation is a critical component in the life of the church and spans all ages. On Sunday June 12, we will be recognizing all of FPC's Christian Educators at the 10:00 a.m. worship. All of our Christian Educators are invited to join us as we say thank you!



Montlure Overnight Summer Camp

Senior High: June 19-24

Junior High: June 26-July 1

Juniors: (grades 4-6) July 5-9

Register at Montlure.org. Partial camperships available on our church website. Camperships need to be submitted to Chris two weeks prior to camp. Chris@fpcmesa.org

Montlure Traveling Day Camp (TDC). Mission del Sol in Tempe is hosting TDC, **June 20-24**. TDC is for children entering 1-6 grades. Register: Montlure.org. Partial camperships available for church members on our website. Camperships need to be submitted to Chris by June 5th. Please contact Chris for additional information. Chris@fpcmesa.org



Volunteers & Meals Sign-up. Traveling Day Camp is a collaborative camp partnering with other East Valley Presbyterian Churches. This means we support Traveling Day Camp by sending volunteers, as well as assisting with meals for the camp staff. FPC will be providing dinner for the staff on Wednesday, June 22, and breakfast on Thursday, June 23. We are also responsible for sending volunteers, both youth and adults. Please prayerfully consider lending a hand the week of June 20 at Mission del Sol. Sign-ups available in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Time on Sundays. Please contact Chris for further details. Chris@fpcmesa.org.

Our Children's and Youth Sunday School program is on summer break until our fall kickoff on September 11, 2022. Of course, the Children's Pray & Play area in the sanctuary will be available during worship. Have a fun and safe summer.



Blessings,
Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation
chris@fpcmesa.org



Oh, the kindness and love abound from the FPC community! The teachers and I want to say a very special thank you to all of you for making the teacher recognition Sunday service so amazing and unique. We really felt all of your love and support for the work that we do every day! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!



Also, we are now closed for the summer but are still enrolling new families for the new school year. Please send anyone with littles our way! I will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. starting June 21-July 30. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. Children must be potty trained and at least 2.5 years old before the first day of school on August 8th. Thank you for all of your help spreading the word!

Much love and happy summer!
Shiloh Murillo

A Look Ahead to Pentecost

On the first Sunday of June we will celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit within, at home, and abroad:

- ~Sharing mission insights with David's guest from India on economic discipleship
- ~Dedicating our church leaders
- ~Receiving congregational involvement in our interim transition by means of our Ministry Interest Survey and
- ~Partake in Communion with cosmic grandeur.

Also let's wear red!



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

2022 CarePortal Mission – We are excited to help local families again this year with our 2022 CarePortal Mission Trip. What we love about doing CarePortal for our Mission Trip is that there is something for everyone. We will have 3 teams to help in different ways again this year so no matter what your talent, there is a team for you.

- **Donation Team:** If you want to receive emails about what is needed for the families to see if there is something new or used that you can donate, perhaps the Donation Team is perfect for you.
- **Delivery Team:** If delivering the donated items and seeing up close how the donations impact these families seems like a way that you can help serve, then the Delivery Team might be perfect for you.
- **Prayer Team:** You can join our prayer team who will pray for the families, pray for our volunteers, and also the overall success of the mission.



Mark your Calendars!

Sunday, June 5th: Join us for pizza and an introduction to our 2022 CarePortal Mission Trip

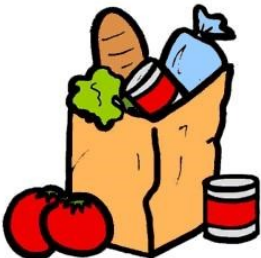
Thursday, June 9th – Sunday, June 12th: CarePortal Mission Trip

Sunday, June 12th: CarePortal Mission Wrap Up Event



Café Justo quarterly orders are back and are available for signups on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please get your order in for this delicious coffee by June 12th when the order will be placed.

Pentecost has begun, and we are now collecting for this special offering now through June 5th. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. This offering helps our youth begin life with a strong foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. We are excited to announce that forty percent of the offering will go to Montlure. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). Twenty-five percent supports ministries of youth. And 10 percent supports Child Advocacy “Educate a child, Transform the World.”



The Food Pantry needs donations of canned fruits and vegetables. Boxes of cereals and spaghetti sauce are always needed. Please help us with our summer supplies and place them in baskets in the Sanctuary or call Sandy Clark, 480-835-1338.

The Food Pantry is open every first and third Friday from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., along with the Clothing Closet.

June Birthdays



Heather McKee	1st
Renita Jurgensen	2nd
Ines McGrath	2nd
Ellen Hickey	3rd
Victoria Martin	3rd
Don Anweiler	6th
Gretchen Frederick	7th
Matt Hayball	7th
Zoe Garlin	8th
Shirley Martz	9th
Rosie Mills	9th
Ellen Gillespie	10th
Jack Oliver	12th
Todd Ramsey	12th
Grace Martin	14th
Joan White	14th
Bert Lanstra	16th
Cheryl Gregory	18th
Gail Soderquist	18th
Jack Gunter	25th
Ann Harbin	28th
Carol Anderson	29th

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
 Mark Ramsey: music@fpcmesa.org
 Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
 Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
 Don Krill: buildings@fpcmesa.org
 Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org

Calendar Notes

June

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
In person or online

June 5

Pentecost
 Congregational Meeting
 Installation of Officers
 Deacons meet
 Introduction to CarePortal Mission Trip

June 7

PW Coordinating Team

June 9-12

Care Portal Mission Trip

June 12

Christian Education Appreciation Day
 CarePortal Mission Trip Wrap-up Event

June 19

Fathers Day

June 19-24

Senior High Montlure Overnight Camp

June 20-24

Montlure Traveling Day Camp
 Mission del Sol

June 26-July 1

Junior High Montlure Overnight Camp

June 26

Monthly Food Drive
 Session meets



IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Durand — April 26, 2022
 Graham Walker — May 2, 2022



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Mesa, AZ 85201

LA PALABRA

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**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
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**