

La Palabra

July 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David



One of the most puzzling images in the Gospel narrative is that of Peter attempting to walk on troubled waters, and the first time we see it we think, “Thank God I never tried to do that!” But that thought is quickly followed by another: “O Lord, that is me, isn’t it!”

What helps us to relate the story to ourselves is the very common experience of being aware of the stark contrast between the troubling world in which we live and the challenge of keeping our eyes focused on the Lord and what He is calling us to do. Peter was apparently doing just fine until he looked down, and his faith in the Lord was undermined by the fear of his own inadequacy.

We have designed a summer of transformation in the life of our church. The leadership is performing its opportunities and responsibilities according to a different operational model; and the staff is realigning its responsibilities in ways that enable effective outcomes, require open communication, and allow for the Spirit to move with resourcefulness among us. Members of the congregation will be invited into the leadership patterns of the church as ways of gifting the church with the value of their time and talent; and we believe that what we are doing is what the Lord is calling us to do in order to prepare the church for the call of new pastoral leadership.

There may be some *troubling of the waters*, but my sense is that God often does God’s best work in times when waters are troubled. The challenge for us, is no different from the challenge Peter faced when he scrambled overboard to meet his Lord: We just need to stay focused on the Lord who says *Come*, and resist the temptation to awaken our fears. The Lord who calls us is using us well, and those troubled waters may only last for a *summer of transformation*. When autumn comes the fear of the storm “will be as yesterday when it is past.”

Thank you for inviting me to share this amazing adventure with you!

David

INDEX

<i>A Message from David</i>	1
<i>Mark’s Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Mission Committee</i>	4
<i>Property Update</i>	5
<i>Clerk’s Notes</i>	6
<i>July Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>In Memoriam</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	website

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, Ext. 103; music@fpcmesa.org

"Everything must be possible." - J. S. Bach

Jan Montgomery correctly guessed Paul Green as the June mystery band member. Congratulations, Jan!

This month, Anita and I will head north to visit Marj Burgan at her home in Montana. We'll be joined by FPC members and friends, Don and Mary Kaelin and Paul and Mary Carlson. We'll sing with Marj's church choir in Polson, offering special music for Sunday worship, and then we'll head to Missoula for their 12th International Choral Festival! Choirs from around the world are hand selected to participate in the Festival. Local hosts offer housing for participants, and with the help of hundreds of volunteers, the choirs offer beautiful music in a beautiful setting.

Due to the failing health of our Fellowship Hall projection system, we will return to our Sanctuary for Sunday worship services beginning July 9th and ongoing. Sanctuary services are also better streamed to our online congregation. For online worship, visit our FPC blog, <https://fpcworshipperservices.blogspot.com/>. The Worship Committee is researching new equipment which will enhance future Fellowship Hall worship services and events, for both in-person and online attendees!

Several young pianists from around the Valley will gather at our church on Saturday, September 9th, for Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, an introduction to the pipe organ. The event will be presented by the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and Chris Perry and I will lead the event. Chris is the Chapter's Scholarships Chair. Our pianists will have the opportunity to play the pipe organ and learn about its design and history. The event will conclude with the ever-popular pizza lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Humoresque

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

The president of a large managed health care facility also served on the board of his community's symphony orchestra. Finding that he could not go to one of the concerts, he gave his tickets to the company's director of health care cost containment. The next morning, he asked the director how he enjoyed the performance. Instead of the usual polite remarks, the director handed him a memo which read as follows: The undersigned submits the following comments and recommendations relative to the performance of Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" by this city's symphony orchestra as observed under actual working conditions: (A.) The attendance of the conductor is unnecessary for the public performances. The orchestra has obviously practiced and has the prior authorization from the conductor to play the symphony at a predetermined level of quality. Considerable money could be saved merely by having the conductor critique the orchestra's performance during a retrospective peer review meeting. (B.) For considerable periods, the four oboe players had nothing to do. Their numbers should be reduced and their work spread

over the whole orchestra, thus eliminating peaks and valleys of activity. (C.) All 12 violins were playing identical notes with identical motions. This is unnecessary duplication: the staff of this section should be cut drastically with consequent savings. If a large volume of sound is required, this could be obtained through electronic amplification, which has reached high levels of reproductive quality. (D.) Much effort was expended playing 16th notes or semi-quavers. This seems an excessive refinement, as most listeners are unable to distinguish such rapid playing. It is recommended that all notes be rounded up to eighths. If this is done, it would also be possible to use trainees and lower grade musicians with no loss of quality. (E.) No useful purpose would appear to be served by repeating with horns the same passage that has already been handled by the strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated, as determined by the utilization review committee, the concert would have been reduced from two hours to about 20 minutes, resulting in substantial savings in salaries and overhead. In fact, if Schubert had addressed these concerns on a cost containment basis, he probably would have been able to finish this symphony!

Coming Events

- 7/2-7 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona

fpcmesa.org/worship

Welcome to July in Arizona!



MISSION COMMITTEE



Clothing Closet and Food Pantry will have a grand reopening / open house on September 10th. If you would like to see how you can help these amazing ministries, please plan to attend.

School Supply Drive is now underway as a part of our new quarterly mission projects. We will have our normal school supply drive for the Preschool in August. The Preschool Wish List is coming soon. School supplies will be collected through mid-September.

Pentecost Offering special offering raised \$1335. 40% of this special offering will go towards the 2023 Mission Trip. 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). And 10% supports Child Advocacy "Educate a Child, Transform the World." Thank you so much for your generous support of this special offering.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

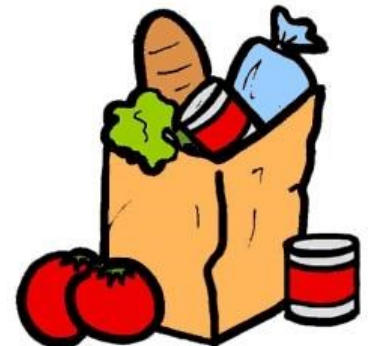


2023 Mission Trip. Please be in prayer for the success of our Mission Trip where participants leave July 2nd with the help of Montlure to provide a Vacation Bible School July 3rd – 7th and return home. Please pray for the health and safety of all involved. And please pray that we are able to do God's will, create relationships, and help encouraging others to know Christ.

Starting in September, a community dinner will be served on the 1st Wednesday of the month. More info to come.

We were given \$1500 for a community Fall festival which will include a trunk or treat on Saturday, October 28th.

Food Donations are Needed for the Food Pantry. Please bring food donations on Sunday or to the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted. Examples of food to donate: canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soup, cereal, peanut butter and more! Thanks!



PROPERTY UPDATE

We have made significant improvements to the campus since the last update:

- The building's electrical system, a relic of 1950s construction, was hopelessly out of code. Jack Oliver worked with an electrician to replace the old circuit breakers with a whole new installation that will safely handle the electrical load.
- Two new AC units were installed. These units will be a much more efficient way to maintain comfortable temperatures while the rooms are being used, then revert to an energy-saving setting at night. The total cost for this was about \$70,000.
- Several trees on campus, including the courtyard tree "Big Pine." Some drooping branches were trimmed and the roots were given a nutritious soil treatment.
- Preliminary work on the parking lot will begin July 10 and should be completed by July 31. More information will be provided when it's available.

Updates are being made to the Preschool thanks to a grant award from the State of Arizona. These include:

- Right at the end of the school year two new AC units replaced the old ones, one of which had already failed, and the other one was on its last legs.
- A storage shed was built in the courtyard patio to relieve overburdened supply shelves.
- The bathrooms were remodeled with new tile, fixtures, paint, countertops, and privacy partitions.
- A new security gate was installed in the office breezeway area. And before the end of July the school gets a new paint job inside and out. Also, new classroom doors will be installed. This time they can be locked from the inside to improve security.
- Additional bids are out for more shade outside and remodeling the utility room inside.

In addition, the preschool was awarded 5 stars for quality, the highest possible rating. Congratulations!

The parking lot will be resurfaced in July and will be unavailable on certain days.

- New striping and lighting will change traffic patterns.
- Please obey signs and cones instructions.
- Walk and drive safely around construction equipment and blocked areas.

This information should be put on all calendars and communicated to everybody who will be affected by the construction.

Here is a tentative construction schedule:

- 7/10 - 7/14: initial trenching, backfill, install new concrete light pole bases.
- 7/24 - 7/28: milling and grading. Parking lot closed.
- 7/31 Sunland: striping

David Frederick
Property Elder





FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

News from the JUNE Session meeting.

Session is now operating under a Committee format on a trial basis for one year. The last Commission meetings were the May meetings. And, also on a trial basis, there will be a separate Board of Trustees.

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Class of 2024: Susan Chesko, Mission. Carol Gerlach, Clerk of Session. Dan Reeves, Worship. Marcy Snitzer, Nominating.

Class of 2025: Kyle Harding, Children's/Family Ministries. Brent Gregory, Stewardship and Finance. Ian Harding, Youth/Young Adults. Erin Skarphol, Fellowship.

Class of 2026: Carol Anderson, Adults/Small Groups. Dave Frederick, Property. Jo Wilson, Personnel.

Clerk's Statistics:

- Allan Schultz died in May.
- Our membership is 235.
- Worship attendance average for May 2023:
 - 94 in-person + 80 online = 174.
 - For May 2022: 126 in-person + 86 online = 212.

Session Approved the Following Motions:

- The May Financial Reports
- A \$1,500 budget for the October 28 Fall Festival Event
- That we contact FPC in Douglas AZ to see if they would like a sound mixer that we are not using
- That we return to worship in the Sanctuary beginning July 9 due to serious audio issues with worship in Fellowship Hall

Parking Lot Update:

The parking lot pavement will be removed and new pavement laid down the week of July 24. You will probably not be able to park in our parking lot on Sunday, July 30.

Online Giving Update! Faithlife is no longer providing a platform for online giving. FPC Mesa will now use Servant Keeper for this service. The only change is a prompt asking you to update your password the first time you log on to your online giving account. Thank you!
Brent Gregory, 480 677-0843

July Birthdays



<i>Marcy Snitzer</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Tate Posthumus</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Anne Schafer</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Kevin Reeves</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Virginia Leigh</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Linda Hayball</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Jo Throckmorton</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Mark Waters</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Andrew Frederick</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Brielle Reeves</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Skyler Verch</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Eileen Brause</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Ian Harding</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Matthew Skarphol</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Mary Jean Maedche</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Fernande Anderson</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Ben Gerlach</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Freda Homolya</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Amie Alvarado</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Mack Coulter</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Tom Watson</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Chaz McInnelly</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Demi McInnelly</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Jeff Seehorn</i>	<i>30th</i>

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.*



IN MEMORIAM

Jon Lokensgard — June 5, 2023



Calendar Notes

July

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

July

Parking Lot Resurfacing
(See schedule on page 5)

July 2

Deacons meet

July 2-7

Mission Trip
Tseyl Bidaa PC

July 5-9

Montlure Grades 4-6

July 14

Jon Lokensgard Memorial Service

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

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

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 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**