

La Palabra

August 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Although a sermon series on racism has just concluded, my prayer is that our conversations about racism will continue. I am hopeful that this can be a time of discernment and growth for us as a congregation. It is certainly a time to listen to and learn from the life stories of others in our midst and to hear the voices of those long silenced.

Recently, our denomination launched an initiative known as the Matthew 25 initiative. The three foci of the Matthew 25 vision are to build congregational vitality, eradicate systemic poverty, and dismantle structural racism. A recent article by the Presbyterian Mission Agency states, "In view of the current unrest and protest in our nation, the call to be a Matthew 25 church is more compelling than ever." Our congregation might want to consider accepting this invitation!

Whether or not we officially engage as a Matthew 25 congregation, we can still participate in some upcoming events. I invite you to consider attending the next online event – Matthew 25: Dismantling Racism – to be held **Wednesday, July 29th**, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. via Zoom. Registration information can be found in this article: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/next-online-matthew-25-event-planned-for-july-29/>

Also, another excellent opportunity is being offered through a partnership with Stony Point Center and Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at the request of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. They are teaming up to develop and offer online (and eventually in-person) curriculum to support the Matthew 25 vision. The pilot course is entitled "Awakening to Structural Racism" and begins August 10th. It will consist of four 2-hour classes which will include Bible study and theological reflection. I hope to participate and would love it if a few others might want to join me! It will run for four Mondays in a row from 4:00-6:00 p.m. For more information visit presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25/curriculum/

I have shared Racial Justice Resources from our denomination (see recent weekly update emails for that information). Recently, I also put together my own list of recommended resources on racism. The list includes books, articles, films, videos, and lectures. I would be happy to discuss any of these with you!

View my [resource list](#) here.

I am grateful to God for the many opportunities to continue to grow in my faith and learn from my siblings in Christ. The walk of faith is a challenging walk, for we follow a crucified savior. I am blessed to be on this walk with all of you, and I relish the time when we will be together in person again!

May God's grace and peace be with us all and may God's love and strength sustain us!

~ Ann

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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) — David Miller

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

Update on Campus Reopening: When we reopen our FPC campus, the Campus Reopening Task Force wants to be sure that we are following all Presbytery, Health, and Government guidelines to protect the members of our congregation. The most recent update of our Presbytery Recommendations on Reopening Church Campuses remains June 1st, and we continue to regularly monitor those [guidelines](#). We greatly miss our time together, so until we are able to meet again on our campus, we are all invited to join together for online worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., with Zoom Coffee Time at 10:00!



This month, we will enjoy two virtual anthems. Heavenly Harmonies is preparing “My Tribute” by Andraé Crouch, and One Voice is working on an arrangement of the folk hymn “Down to the River to Pray.” Then, on September 13th, Kick-Off Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir will offer another virtual anthem. All are welcome to sing with the group! Please send me a note if you would like to participate. The choir will also record worship anthems during online rehearsals which will begin in September.

The Worship Commission has chosen Audio Visual Experts to provide and install our new camera and display equipment for the Sanctuary. Audio Visual Experts, formerly Lukert Productions, has been FPC’s audio-video curator since the late 90’s, and they were chosen from among four bidders who were recommended by Worship. The project cost is \$27,239.76. If you would like to assist with the project funding, please send to the church a check with memo notation “Sanctuary Video.” Thank you!

Join us online on Labor Day Sunday, September 6th, when Glenn Bennett and I will offer a Gospel-Sing/Hymn-Sing! In addition to a service of Holy Communion, the Hymnfest will include hymn stories, a hymnsing prelude, and virtual singing of several hymns and gospel songs. We might even dig into the musical treasures contained in our "new" Presbyterian hymnals, “Glory to God”!

Christ is calling Christians ... to cleansing, to dedication, to cocreation, and to full surrender. It will make the difference between success and tepid failure in your spiritual life. It will make the difference between being helped and helping others. It will make a difference in your habits, in your prayer life, in your Bible reading, in your giving, in your testimony, and in your church membership.

— Billy Graham

Humoresque

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

An Old Golfer was hitting his ball from near a water hazard, and his club fell into the water. When he cried out, the Lord appeared and asked, "Why are you crying?" The golfer replied that his club had fallen into the water and he needed the club to have a chance to win the tournament and supplement his meager pension. The Lord went down into the water and reappeared with a golden club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked. The golfer replied, "No." The Lord again went down and came up with a silver club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked. Again, the golfer replied, "No." The Lord went down again and came up with an old iron club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked. The golfer replied, "Yes, that's it!" The Lord was pleased with the golfer's honesty and gave him all three clubs to keep, and the golfer won his tournament and went home happy. Sometime later, the golfer was walking with his wife along the water hazard, and she fell into the lake. When he cried out, the Lord again appeared and asked him, "Why are you crying?" "Oh, Lord, my woman has fallen into the water!" The Lord went into the water and reappeared with Kate Upton. "Is this your woman?" the Lord asked. "Yes," cried the golfer. The Lord was furious. "You lied! That is an untruth!" The golfer replied, "Oh, forgive me Lord. It is a misunderstanding. You see, if I had said 'No' to Kate Upton, you would have come up with Jennifer Aniston. Then if I said 'No' to her, you would have come up with my woman. Had I then said 'Yes,' you would have given me all three. And Lord, I am an old man not able to take care of all three women in a way that they deserve... so that's why I said 'Yes' to Kate Upton. And God was pleased. The moral of this story is: if a golfer ever tells a lie, it is for a good and honorable reason and only out of consideration for others. [from Carol Gerlach]



The 2020 -2021 Bible study is "Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament," by P. Lynn Miller. In all that we have experienced within just a few months, it is hard to believe that this study was not written this year. Lament might mean different things to different people. Following is a quote from the introduction:

"WHY BOTHER TO LAMENT? BECAUSE LAMENT

- is communication with God,
- broadens our prayer lives,
- connects us to the world and the God who loves it and us,
- helps us focus on the actual situations that lead us to lament,
- is an opportunity to confess our faith in God whose promises are trustworthy.

When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. In our faith there is hope. We lament in order to hope."

We will start the year, with Lesson One, in **October**. More information will be coming, as we get closer, to what Circle Meetings will look like then. Whether Circle looks like what we all have known in the past or virtually, these lessons about lament cannot help but reach out to each of us. Please join us in this timely study.

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding
Youth Elder — Ben Gerlach

August Faith Formation Happenings

WRAP Launch: Our midweek WRAP program is gearing up to launch the first block online every Wednesday in September (September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30). WRAP will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Youth will meet 6:45 p.m. via Zoom. Please stay tuned for Zoom invitations.

Faith Formation Resources: During this time of physical distancing we have provided numerous resources including written and video devotions for all ages to enjoy on our church's website: <https://fpcmesa.org/discipleship>.

Children's Church Care Packages: We miss worshipping together in person as well as seeing the children in church and Sunday school every week. We are in the process of putting Children's Church care packages together, which will include Christ-centered activities to enjoy with your child at home. To ensure every FPC child receives the care package, please email Chris McKee to be included. We plan to mail out by mid-August.

Christian Education Sunday: September usually marks the start of fall programming in the life of the church. Session continues to follow the direction of the presbytery by having worship and many of our Christian Education programming online, until it is safe to return in-person. With that said, Christian Education Sunday is on September 13th when we will present third grade Bibles and commission our Christian Educators. Please contact Chris if your child is entering the third grade, and we can plan to present their Bible in a safe and creative way.

FPC Youth on Summer Break and Fall Launch Date. All FPC Youth online gatherings are on summer break. Please join us on **Wednesday, August 12th, at 6:45 p.m.** for our fall launch via Zoom. We are encouraging our new incoming youth to join us. After our launch we will meet most Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. Please email or text Chris to get the invite link or if you have any questions.

In Christ,

Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation
chris@fpcmesa.org

Every August FPC has held a school supply drive for the Preschool. This year is going to be very different! We are not asking for the typical things because of the COVID changes. We are asking for things like individual pencil boxes, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes for surface spot cleaning, tissues, copy paper, and individually wrapped snacks for the children since they will need to be served individually wrapped items for snack time. Thank you for your continuing support of the Preschool.

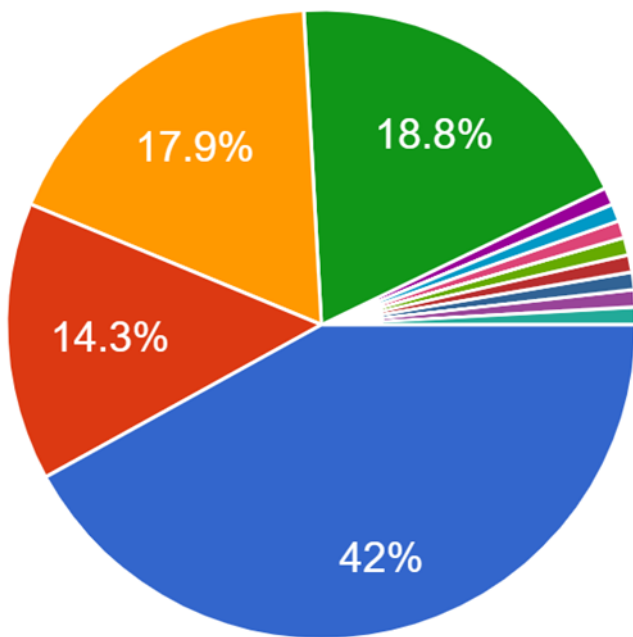
We are now scheduled to open on Tuesday, September 8th. Please keep the students and teachers in your prayers.



~Shiloh Murillo, Director

Congregational Survey Results

A big thank you for those who took the time to complete the FPC Congregational Survey this summer. We included the two questions regarding attending worship while Covid-19 is a concern. A more detailed report will be posted on the website soon.



When Session determines that it is responsibly appropriate to return to in-person worship, how do you plan on attending when you are in town?

112 Responses

42% Plan to worship in person as soon as it is allowed.

18.8% Sometimes, I'll worship in person and sometimes online.

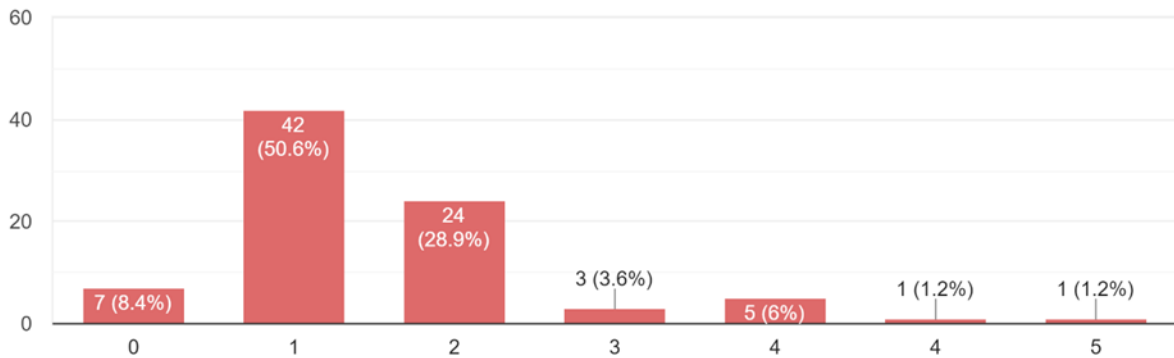
17.9% Plan on worshipping online initially. Once we've had a few services, I plan to attend in person

14.3% Plan to continue worshipping online.

Other

If you plan on attending in person, how many people will be in your group? Please answer 0 if someone in your household has already completed this survey and counted you!

83 responses



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

Ann Conklin: pastor@fpcmesa.org

Mark Ramsey: choirs@cox.net

Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org

Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org

Don Krill: buildings@fpcmesa.org

MISSION

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

Fellowship (D) – Carol Strouse
 Seasonal Ministries (D) — Dale Gibson
 Mission (D) – Sue Eisenklam

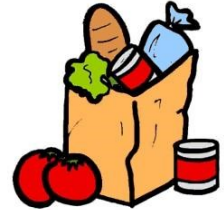
Pentecost. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pentecost offering. As of July 14th, we received \$1,305.24 in donations of which \$522.10 will go to fix the slide for the Preschool and Head Start kids. Thank you for helping to make a difference.

Mission funds help kids through Save the Family’s Back to School Bash school supply drive. The mission commission approved \$300 from the Mission budget to use for backpacks and school supplies for underprivileged kids. We are happy to provide the much needed supplies that these kids need.

The Food Pantry is continuing to serve the community during the public health crisis. We are doing well getting the majority of our food from United Food Bank. We still need cereals, dry milk, and pasta.

Your prayers for our health and safety are needed more than ever. Thank you for your support.

~Sandy



August Birthdays



Frank Thompson
Charlotte Roberts
Grace Njoku
Verna Green
Todd Verch
Susan McMichael
Ayden Hickey
Ann Conklin
Mike Chesko
Rosemary Chisnall
Gary Marshall
Jo Beth Walstrom
Carol Webster

1st
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
10th
11th
11th
12th

Susan Chesko 14th
Jim Bruening 19th
Eliana Couillard 19th
Lynette Belew 20th
Robert Gerlach 20th
Tricia MacDonald 25th
Lanai Mills 25th
Sean Smith 25th
Doug McInelly 26th
Angelina Waters 26th
Burton Newbry 28th
Evangelina Couillard 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

There are no events scheduled on our campus. If this changes, we will let you know as quickly as possible. Please read the Weekly Update or listen to the announcements during Sunday worship for updated information.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Logan, Scot & Susan
 Cell numbers only

Martin, Gana
 480-962-1648
 (Phone change only)

McKee, Chris
 Cell #: 408-396-2296

Miller, David & Tammy
 Lot # change only: #484

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

Ann Conklin, 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