

La Palabra

September 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Welcome Dr. Sean Chow!

Our interim season together has just entered a new and exciting phase with my partnering arrangement with Dr. Sean Chow. During the Big Event on Saturday, he challenged and encouraged us to dream about what the Lord was calling us to be in a post-pandemic world. And then on Sunday, by his encouraging leadership in worship, he has prepared us for *revitalization!*



Our elders and deacons will now review the dreams we dreamed and identify



three or four of what I am calling *thresholds of adventure*. Then, with Sean's help, we will develop strategies for implementation, and establish benchmarks and time lines for measuring our progress.

And I am delighted that every now and then he and I will share a dialogue sermon via zoom from wherever he is in the world so he can celebrate with us the stages of our interim transition.

Our denomination is making available to existing congregations the resources they have developed for new church starts, and

Sean is the director of training for that program. How lucky we are that he is ready, willing and able to share this revitalization with us!

What an exciting time to be together in ministry and mission!

With love and gratitude,
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@FPCMESE.ORG

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

Join us on September 4th for a Hymnfest with handbells and band! We'll sing some of the old praise band "standards," which are in our hymnal. In addition to a service of Holy Communion, the Hymnfest will include hymn stories and a New Hymn written for the occasion! Arrive early for a hymn-request prelude, and please let me know if you would like to assist as one of our service song leaders.

Choirs will return to worship on Kickoff Sunday, 9/11! That day we will also enjoy a Ministry Fair in Fellowship Hall where we will learn about fall ministry opportunities available in the life of our congregation. [Wednesday Wrap](#) will begin on September 7th and will be scheduled in multiple blocks throughout the school year. The First Ringers and Sanctuary Choir will also begin on September 7th, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir on September 13th, One Voice on September 15th, and Hearts Hands and Voices on select Saturdays.



You are invited to THE FIRST PLAYERS' 24TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION, *Singin' in the Rain*, with Dinner-Theaters on November 18-20 (Friday-Sunday). Ticket, Menu, and Show Info, including tickets for those who purchased them in 2019(!), will be available soon at fpcmesa.org/firstplayers. The "Greatest Movie Musical of All Time," hilarious situations, snappy dialogue, and a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards, make *Singin' in the Rain* the perfect entertainment for any fan of the golden age of movie musicals. In silent movies, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a hot item, but, behind the scenes, things aren't always as they appear on the big screen!

Bea Towe has faithfully and skillfully accompanied the Sanctuary Choir for many years. We have been blessed by her beautiful work at the piano and by her love of the Church, music, and teaching. While we will continue to enjoy Bea's directing of the First Ringers and her piano skills in worship and music events, she will not be accompanying the choir, at least until the spring. I have asked Dr. Glenn Bennett to take over direction of the Sanctuary Choir, allowing me to focus the remainder of my ministry on accompanying and organ work. Glenn and I have worked together occasionally over the past 3+ decades, and we're looking forward to working together in ministry at FPC. The choir and congregation will have opportunities to thank Bea, but please share with her your thoughts, prayers of blessing, and many thanks. Bea, you have been a beautiful blessing! I could not have hoped for a more careful and meticulous accompanist and gifted follower. Thank you for masking my many conducting errors!



We continue to gather congregation band photographs! Please select photos of you wearing your marching/concert uniform, especially those from years ago, so guessing will be more of a challenge! Bring photos to the Church Office or send them to music@fpcmesa.org. Here is this month's name-that-band-member. Send guesses (one per issue!) to music@fpcmesa.org. The first correct guess will garner your public recognition in next month's *La Palabra*!

Coming Events

- 10/2 World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering Received. Special Music offered by Hearts Hands and Voices and a duet by Dr. Glenn Bennett (in the Sanctuary) and Tom Sitzler (Online!).
- 11/18-20 Artist Series: First Players' 24th Annual Production, "Singin' in the Rain."

Humoresque

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

A newly-ordained pastor was attempting to console the widow of a very eccentric man who had just died. Standing before the open casket, the nervous young man said, "I realize this must be a very hard time for you, Mrs. Smith. Just try to remember that what we see before us is only the husk, the shell, of your dear husband. The nut has gone to heaven." [from Dennis Sitzler]

Attention FPC Ladies, members and friends!

Indeed all FPC ladies are invited to our Women's Appreciation Tea, September 10th at 3:00 p.m., where we will take time to thank some loyal members who seldom receive thanks worthy of their behind-the-scenes contributions to our congregation and church. We will also recognize so many who not only "do their jobs" but go way above and beyond their job descriptions. And, we will sip a little tea, have some snacks, enjoy some fellowship and maybe even make a new friend!

We would like to make you a name tag and save you a place, so please text, call or email Carol A to let us know you're coming!

480.272.5517 or carolboydanderson@gmail.com

No hats or gloves are allowed!

Our Circle groups will resume the "fall" schedule in September. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Eve meets the second Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor (starting 10/10);

Deborah meets the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor;

Rachel meets the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

We will be "Celebrating Sabbath with God's Gift of Rest and Delight!" Who doesn't need that?



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

September Faith Formation Happenings



Wednesday WRAP Fall Launch!

How do we live a life of peace in this topsy-turvy age? You’re invited to join us at WRAP as we explore God’s vision of peace that God’s people need to keep at the forefront of heart and mind. WRAP restarts **Wednesday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m.**, in Fellowship Hall. WRAP is a family friendly program that includes supper, worship and Christian education for all ages. Pre-registration is now open after worship in Fellowship Hall or online. <https://fpcmesa.org/wednesday-wrap>

Pre-register before September 4th to be entered into a drawing for a free WRAP dinner. (No monetary value)

Sunday Christian Education Opportunities. Check out our Sunday School opportunities for children, youth and adults. FPC Sunday School Restarts on **September 11th at 11:20 a.m.**

| AGE | LOCATION | CURRICULUM |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Children | Jackson | Growing in Grace & Gratitude |
| Youth (Jr. High & Sr. High) | Youth Room | God Talk |
| Adults | Library | The Present Word |

Children's Choirs Starting this Fall

Sunday Morning

Kids Praise Singers (Sunday School Children)
 Rehearse the first 10 minutes of Sunday School, Jackson



Wednesday Afternoon

Pure Praise Voices (Grades 2-8)
 Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:25 p.m., Choir Room
 Focus on singing basics and theater

Contact for details: Chris@fpcmesa.org

Weekly Youth Gatherings

Starting September 11th our junior high and high school teens gather most Sundays at 11:20 a.m. in the youth room. Join us this Sunday for youth fellowship and God talk.



FPC Youth is headed back to Fat Cats Gilbert on Sunday, **September 25th, 12:30-3:00 p.m.** We will enjoy an amazing afternoon of all out fun:

- At least 60 minutes of bowling
- Round of glow golf
- 60-minute time play card in arcade
- Pizza and drinks.

Cost is only **\$12.00** for FPC Youth. Permissions forms are on our website: <https://fpcmesa.org/youth>. Sign-up before September 18. Please contact Chris for further details. chris@fpcmesa.org



Faith Formation Calendar

- WRAP Fall Kickoff, Wednesday, September 7th. at 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Christian Education Sunday, September 11th, at 10:00 a.m. We will commission our Christian Educators and present third grade Bibles. Please contact Chris McKee if your child is entering the third grade so we can present a Bible to them.
- Children & Youth, Adult Sunday School Launch, September 11th, at 11:20 a.m.

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



Sending a huge thank you to all of the First Presbyterian Church congregants who helped to make the beginning of our pre-school year so successful! Your school supply donations of bubbles, markers, paper, spoons, forks, paper plates, sidewalk chalk, dixie cups, glue, crayons and so much more has really helped! A few shout outs go to Susan Chesko, Pam Godfrey-Robles, Anita Ramsey, Chris McKee, Jeannie Partida, Jack Oliver, Mark Ramsey and Linda Reeves for the extra help that you gave in your own way for the best preschool start!

We are starting the 36th school year with a bang! We have 30 children on our roster on the first day of class, which is a Pre-Pandemic level miracle! Praise God! We still have room in our 3-year-old class and would love your referral. Please let them know that we have room for them! We hired two new teachers, one in each classroom. Ms. Lindsey Augeri is a former elementary school teacher from the lower grades and Ms. Kelly has been a long-term nanny for younger children for many years. Both will bring fresh, new ideas to their classrooms and our program. Ms. Sara will work with Ms. Lindsey in the 3's class, and Ms. Nicki will work with Ms. Kelly in the Pre-K class. We look forward to mentoring them along the way.

Please stop by and see us some time. There are many new things happening around our little school. Our most sought-after items for donation are old newspaper, large bottles of bubbles and either 3oz or 5oz disposable dixie cups. If you would like to contribute to this, we would greatly appreciate it!

Best blessings,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

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

Peace and Global Witness Offering “Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ’s peace throughout our community and our world” (PC USA). Starting September 4th and going through World Communion Sunday on October 2nd, we celebrate the season of peace through the Peace and Global Witness offering. This offering will help equip peacemakers in congregations and around the world. For more information, look at PCUSA special offerings website. 50% of the offering will go to PCUSA for supporting those who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the world. 25% will go to mid council to support regional ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. 25% of it will go to support FPC’s mission coworkers Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado and the people of the US-Mexico Border and the ministry of Frontera de Cristo. Please prayerfully consider your giving to this special offering.



The Clothing Closet will gladly accept your gently used Fall and Winter Clothing that you no longer need. Donations are still accepted on the first Sunday of the month, so the next donation date is September 4th.

Café Justo quarterly orders are going on now through September 4th when our order will be placed. You can buy delicious, organic, coffee and feel good knowing that it also helps the coffee farmers in Mexico obtain a livable wage.

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:

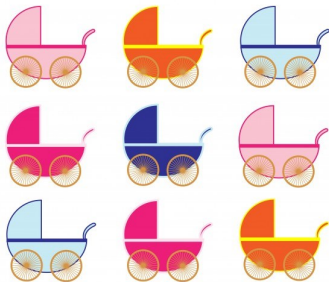
- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- A protein (canned chicken, tuna, chili, etc.)
- Toilet Paper is also requested regularly



Congratulations!

Declynn James Reeves was born on August 19, 2022.
(Best birthday present for Jim ever!)

Proud parents are Kevin & Jess Reeves;
proud grandparents are Dan & Linda Reeves;
even prouder great-grandparents are James & Laura Bruening.



September Birthdays



| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Monte Nelson | 1st |
| Mark Ramsey | 3rd |
| Ron Wright | 5th |
| Diana Johnson | 7th |
| Gregg Gerlach | 10th |
| Skeets Throckmorton | 13th |
| Beverly Snitzer | 14th |
| Paul Green | 15th |
| Miki Newbry | 16th |
| Mildred Kimbrough | 18th |
| Kyle Harding | 21st |
| Rediet Newbry | 21st |
| Paul Harding | 22nd |
| Steve Post | 25th |
| Sandra Clark | 26th |
| Don Wallen | 26th |
| Jeanette Chaney | 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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Brause, Ken & Sharon
 1381 N. 25th Way
 Show Low, AZ 85901
 480-694-6110

Calendar Notes

September

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

Beginning 9/11: Youth meet at 11:20 a.m.
 Youth Room

Beginning 9/11: Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.
 Food Donations taken every Sunday

September 4

Hymnfest in worship
 Deacons meet
 Clothing Closet donations taken

September 5

Office Closed — Labor Day

September 7

WRAP begins
 First Ringers and Choir begin

September 10

PW Appreciation Tea

September 11

Kick-Off Sunday

September 13

Deborah and Rachel Circles meet
 Dei Gloriam begins

September 15

One Voice begins

September 25

Youth to Fat Cats

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



IN MEMORIAM

Helen Thielke — August 10, 2022



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

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A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Mesa, AZ 85201**

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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**