

La Palabra

January 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606



A Message from Ann

Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance.” For our Christian faith, epiphany refers to God appearing in flesh in Jesus of Nazareth and, over the years, has become connected with the visit from the Magi. The feast of Epiphany also marks the close of the season of Christmas, the Twelve Days of Christmas.

In our culture, the word epiphany is used to describe a sudden insight or profound understanding. It seems to me that the two definitions (cultural and spiritual) are connected since knowing Christ gives us profound insight and understanding into the deeper meaning of life and love.

Throughout the Scriptures, we learn that God **wants** to be known by us. Indeed, God is revealed to us through Scripture and, most completely, through Jesus Christ. By the example of his own life, Jesus shows us how to live and love. Jesus also taught this in his ministry of healing and by way of the parables.

In his commentary, *The Parables of Jesus*, Dr. Arland Hultgren writes, “From the standpoint of faith, Jesus as the Christ is the Revealer of God and the Redeemer of humanity. His parables are the primary medium of revelation, and the cross is the primary means of redemption.”

The parables of Jesus continue to intrigue, instruct, and inspire disciples of Jesus. As a congregation, we will explore Jesus’ parables in our worship and study as we reflect upon what it means to live faithfully as followers of Jesus.

God’s love for us is so great that God came to earth in Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate this love, receive this love, and show forth this love to the world!

Grace and peace in Christ our Lord,

~ Ann

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WORSHIP

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

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen
Worship (D) —
Fellowship (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



DING! DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH! As we begin a new year, we not only look forward to the joy of future blessings, but we also look back and give thanks for gifts from the past. For the past 35 years, FPC has welcomed the musical blessings of handbells, in concert, worship, and festivals. Our beautiful instruments continue to ring out the "Good News," and here is a bit of their history.

In 1984, three octaves of handbells were purchased from the Stubbefield bequest. The next year, octaves 4 and 5 along with tables, pads, and other equipment were procured through a memorial fundraising drive. Two bells of the 6th octave were purchased in 1989 by the Women's Circle in memory of Donna Stafford (one of the first ringers in the group now known as Dei Gloriam). Memorial funds were made available in March 1991 to purchase a third bell of the 6th octave and four-inch foam table pads (replacing initial two-inch padding). A second three-octave set of bells was donated by Joe & Jeannette Laurie. Jeannette's cousin, Ronald Beach, started his own handbell business, which became part of Schulmerich Carillons, and he became its President and CEO. He helped make possible a set of bells for St. Andrews UMC, Mesa, and when St. Andrews dissolved, the Lauries were beneficiaries of the handbells. That set was gifted to FPC, and as we are blessed to "RING in this new year," we are thankful, indeed, that all of THE BELLS ARE RINGING! HAPPY 35TH!

The First Players invite you to their 24th annual production, *Singin' in the Rain*, this March 27-29. Dinner-Theater Tickets are on sale online at fpcmesa.org, and they will be available in the Church Office beginning March 1st.

A reminder for all of us: The HolyGrounds congregation would especially welcome our special attention when entering and exiting Fellowship Hall during the HolyGrounds worship services. The main door likes to make its presence known, and sometimes it tends to get a little "out of hand." Thank you for helping to maintain a spirit of worship during HolyGrounds.

Coming Events

- 2/23 Chili Cook-Off and Annual Meeting
- 2/26 Ash Wednesday
- 3/15 Women's Sunday
- 3/27-29 Singin` in the Rain Dinner-Theaters

Humoresque

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

Four stages of life: we believe in Santa Claus, we don't believe in Santa Claus, we are Santa Claus, and we look like Santa Claus.

Just for Laughs...

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?"

A **Sunday School teacher** said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25.

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"



REMINDER!

Lifetouch Photography will be here on **January 7, 2020**, to take photos to update our pictorial directory. Sessions are scheduled from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Plan on about 60 minutes for photography and time to view your images. You are under no obligation to purchase photos. You will receive a free 8x10 print just for participating. You are encouraged to bring items to personalize your photos.

Not everyone needs to have a photo taken. If you are a new member, missed the last directory or had a life change, please schedule your appointment.

We appreciate your involvement because it helps keep our church directory as current as possible.

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding
Youth Elder — Will Snitzer

Minister of Faith Formation Happenings

WRAP Restarts Soon! WRAP is a mid-week Christian Education and fellowship program, which meets on scheduled Wednesdays 5:00-7:00 p.m. Our next block starts on **January 8th** and will focus on Jesus' Parables and Miracles. Please consider registering and join us for dinner, fellowship and Bible study. Programming is available for children, youth and adults. (See our website or bulletin for scheduled blocks)

Montlure Traveling Day Camp Summer 2020: Families with children completing K-5th grades: Mark your calendars now and **SAVE THESE DATES!** JUNE 22-26, 2020. FPC Mesa is hosting and partnering with other East Valley Presbyterian congregations to bring Montlure to the Valley! Watch the bulletins and La Palabra for more information and registration information as it becomes available. Contact Chris McKee if you're interested!

Montlure Overnight Camp Dates Summer 2020: Please stay tune for further details.

Senior High: June 7-12
Junior High: June 14-19
Juniors: July 5-9

Nursery Attendants Needed. We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship. High School youth are encouraged to apply. Please contact Stephanie Gerlach or Chris McKee if you're interested.

Young Adult Ministry. Young Adults or YA's are college age and/or young working professionals. If you're interested to discover their exciting activities please contact Kyle Harding, our Elder of Youth and Young Adults. Kyle's email is mrcheese113@gmail.com

FPC Youth Ministry (Middle and High School)

Ice Skating

Join us for some winter fun as we head to AZ Ice Gilbert for an afternoon of Ice Skating on **January 26, 2020**. We will depart FPC at 1:00 p.m. and return around 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$8.50, which includes the skate rentals.

Youth Activities Calendar

January 12th, at 10:15 a.m. will be our first Coffee Run of the year at Dunkin' Donuts

January 26th, at 1:00 p.m. at AZ Ice

February 2nd, Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

Wishing you a Blessed New Year!

In Christ,

Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation

Please contact Chris McKee, our Minister of Faith Formation with any questions: Chris@fpcmesa.org



Happy New Year from our little Preschool! We hope that you and your family were able to celebrate the grace of our Lord's birth together. It has been a beautiful time for year to share our joy with you and the families of the preschool. We were able to bring Mrs. Claus in to read the story of Jesus' birth to the children during our chapel time. The kids really enjoyed that!

Since the weather has been so fabulous, we have been very engaged in imaginative play outside! The kids are still enjoying the little garden boxes that they planted in September out on our play yard, watching the seeds grow into different plants. We are open to planting more varieties if you have something you would like to donate to the preschool as an experiment. They have really been enjoying this kind of creative fun!

This month we will learn about Transportation, Community Helpers, the Ocean, and the Farm. We will be welcoming Officer Camberg into the classroom to talk about bike safety and showing us her uniform gear. We will also be welcoming the Mesa Fire Department as they bring their fire truck for the kids to explore, too. The kids love having visitors that teach them about new and different things. What a busy month!

We want to thank all of the families for their sweet gifts that helped to make the teachers feel special. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful community here at First Presbyterian Church. We love being with all of you! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Transportation (D) — Steve Muth

Fellowship Deacon — Jennifer Martin
Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey
Older Adult (E) — Dave Jurgensen

Moderator (D) — Jack Oliver
Liaison (D) — Jan Montgomery
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman

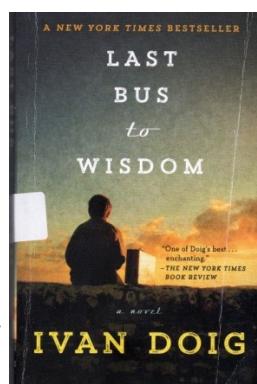


THANK YOU! The PW Holiday Bake Sale was a success again, not only in funds, but in fellowship and fun. The end amount was **\$726**. Thank you from all the Presbyterian Women for your baking, buying and donations. This enables us to continue with our mission work in the upcoming year.

Books from the 2019-20 reading list are on the PW shelf in the library.

Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

Donal Cameron, an eleven-year-old boy, is being raised by his grandmother in Montana when she has to have surgery. He is sent alone on a Greyhound bus from Montana to Wisconsin to live with a great aunt and her husband for the summer. Before long he is back on a Greyhound bus heading back west under wildly different conditions.



MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg
Pastor — Ann Conklin
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark
Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak

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



Christmas Angels — Thank you for your participation in our annual Christmas Angel Tree. We are so blessed to be able to make a difference in the lives of the four families for whom we gave gifts

Save the Dates — Come one, Come all. We are excited to announce that the dates for the 2020 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona, will be from June 29th—July 3rd. We hope that you prayerfully consider coming. More information will be provided in February, but our interest list will begin now. Please reach out to Shelley Cronenberg (480-239-1289 or shelley.cronenberg@gmail.com) if you would like to be on the list to receive updates.



Mission Trip



Thank you for your donations of spaghetti last month. We need more! Any pasta, tuna, canned meats or mashed potato packets would be appreciated. We never need canned fruits or vegetables. We have a wonderful food pantry that serves many thankful people.

~ Sandy



I want to express my deepest appreciation for the prayers that I received during my recent medical challenge. I received visits from both Pastor Ann and Mark while in Banner Baywood Hospital. Pastor Ann brought me a prayer shawl that the ladies at FPC had lovingly crocheted. What a wonderful and thoughtful healing gift. I am now home and on my way to normalcy and hope to be back with you soon. God is good!

May the peace of Christ be with you.

-- Dick Baird

January Birthdays



*Stephanie Gerlach
 Ryan Posthumus
 Miron Webster
 Tammy Miller
 Joan Still-Woods
 Nate Robinson
 Kelly Woods
 Lois Boese
 Susan Logan
 Stan Snitzer
 Jan Montgomery
 Glenn Bennett
 Agwu Njoku
 Helen Letizia
 Sara McWhorter
 Bill Anderson
 Alice Schlak
 Shelley Cronenberg
 Bea Towe
 Ashlyn Newbry
 Gwendolyn Sitzler
 David Jurgensen*

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ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Dent, Lubna
 550 E Mckellips, #1145
 Mesa, AZ 85206

Calendar Notes

January 1

Happy New Year — Office closed

January 6

Deacons meet

January 7

Lifetouch Photo Sessions

January 8

WRAP resumes

January 13 & 14

Circles meet

January 19

Commissions & Session meet

January 26

Monthly Food Drive

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.



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA
A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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