

La Palabra

January 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Adventure 2023

How does one say “WOW!” in body language? I offer a possible answer in this picture. This hiker is off the ground with joy, arms outstretched in wonder, and there is certainly an expression of excitement on the face that gives God pause to say, “Now that’s why I created the mountains with such grandeur, to awaken spiritual adventure in all who see it!”



The daily routine just doesn’t awaken that kind of excitement. The traditional patterns of life for a church family refer to such amazing experiences, but seldom seem able to awaken them.

But beyond the walls of the church, and far above the rituals of life, there are exciting moments when life opens up with wonder ~ and the soul whispers to the heart and mind, “There’s no turning back now!”

We are living on the threshold of such high adventure as we enter this second year of our interim season of transition. A pastoral search committee is being formed, a mission study will be done, and then they will begin searching for the pastor whom God is even now preparing for First Presbyterian Church Mesa.

It will require much work on the part of those elected to serve, but I am certain that when it is done well with prayer and thanksgiving, with faith and devotion, that the consummation will have them feeling like the picture above ~ elevated with joy and outstretched in wonder, love and praise!

Let the Adventure of 2023 begin, in all its promise and purpose.

With every blessing,
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@FPCMESA.ORG

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

Dr. Mark Ramsey, Piano
Dr. Paul Soderquist, Percussion
The Music of Dave Brubeck
Featuring the recently restored
1932 Steinway & Sons Piano



Saturday, January 21, 2023
4PM in the FPC Chapel
161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa

Our FPC Artist Series will present “Chapel Jazz” on Saturday, January 21st, at 4:00 p.m. Paul Soderquist and I will offer a musical revue of Dave Brubeck’s music, featuring the iconic “Take Five.” Join us for an afternoon of cool jazz, with our recently restored 1932 Steinway & Sons piano!

Next month, our Sanctuary Choir will participate in the Fourth Biennial Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival with the choirs of FPC, Grace UMC, St Luke’s Lutheran, and Mesa North Stake, all led by Guest Clinician Dr. Marc Denton. The massed choir will rehearse on Saturday, February 25th, and will return

that evening to present a Choral Festival at Mesa North Stake (933 E. Brown Rd., Mesa). Great hymns of faith, readings, and massed choir anthems will combine to create an afternoon of tremendous, deep song. Please join us!

There was no winner in last month’s Name that Band Member. Shirley Martz was the featured musician, and her great pic stumped us all! We have many more band pics, so there’s still time to win! Here is this month’s mystery band member. Send guesses to music@fpcmesa.org and include any photos of you in YOUR band uniform. The first correct guess will be recognized in next month's *La Palabra*!

Coming Events

- 1/9-1/27 The January Series, M-F mornings, Sanctuary
- 1/21 Jazz Piano and Percussion Concert in the Chapel at 4:00 p.m., featuring the music of Dave Brubeck and our recently restored 1932 Steinway & Sons Baby Grand Piano. Pianist Mark Ramsey and Percussionist Paul Soderquist.



Humoresque

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

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



The PW Holiday Luncheon was held on December 10th with approximately 40 members, friends, and guests from other Presbyterian neighboring churches attending. The potluck dishes created a diverse and delicious array of lunch choices to please everyone: what a marvelous meal!

The highlight of the event was our speaker, Chaplain Juliana Leshner, Ph.D., M. Div., author of *A Heart That Sings for Jesus*, who shared her reflections on Mary, Mother of Jesus, who boldly said, "Lord, let it be according to your word!" Juliana incorporated into her reflections, her own stories of challenges, struggles, successes and blessings, all informative and inspirational.



PW is grateful for Juliana and for all the Circle members whose shared efforts resulted in a joyful and reverent observation of our Christmas season!

Meanwhile, our study of "Celebrating Sabbath" continues with Circles meeting in January in the Parlor as follows: Eve meets January 9th at 4:00 p.m.; Deborah meets January 10th at 9:30 a.m.; and Rachel meets January 10th at 1:00 p.m. Please come join us for fellowship and Bible study!



Thank you, dear friends, for the kindnesses extended the McMichael family throughout Jeff's illness. Your cards bolstered our spirits. Your offerings of food nourished bodies and souls. The memorial reception hosted by Presbyterian Women was a lovely way to bring closure to these difficult times.

With grateful hearts,
Susan, Heather, Beth and Kate McMichael

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

January Faith Formation Happenings

Sunday School Opportunities. Our Sunday School programs will restart on January 8, 2023, at 11:20 a.m.

AGE	LOCATION	CURRICULUM
Children	Jackson	Growing in Grace and Gratitude
Adults	Library	The Present Word



Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group is now meeting in person on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Please email Paul Soderquist pbsod77@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Koinonia Women's Bible Study

The Koinonia Women's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Thursdays from 2:30 -4:00 p.m. Their current study is "Help is Here" by Max Lucado. Please contact Karen Rudin at 480-233-1043 for more information.



Two Children's Choir Opportunities

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



Pure Praise Voices

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



Wednesday WRAP

To spiritually recharge yourself into the new year consider, joining WRAP. Wednesday WRAP is dinner, worship and Bible study for children and adults. Our curriculum is “Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.” Our next series is on Forgiveness and started on **Wednesday, January 4th, at 5:30 p.m.** Simply sign-up at the door and enjoy an evening of worship, revival and praise.

Future of Wednesday WRAP

Join us Sunday, January 22nd, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as we discuss the future of Wednesday WRAP. Should Wednesday WRAP be discontinued or redesigned? Come and let your voice be heard.

Blessings,
Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation
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 of year to share our joy with you and the families of the preschool. We want to thank all of the families for their sweet gifts that helped to make the teachers feel special! We visited the Sanctuary with Mr. Chris McKee to share the story of the Nativity with the children and they loved it!



This month we will be learning about Community Helpers, the Ocean and the Farm. We will be welcoming the Mesa Fire Department as they bring their fire truck for the kids to explore. The kids love having visitors that teach them about new and different things. If you would like to share something special you do for the community, please let me know and we can arrange for a visit from YOU!

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

I-Help is in need of a host/cook team for the 4th Sunday of every month, beginning January 22, 2023. Host arrives around 5:30 p.m., unlocks fellowship hall, I-Help storage closet, youth room and clothes closet. Guests arrive at 6:00 p.m. Provide dinner (either store bought or something prepared at home) for 15 guests. Receipts can be turned in for reimbursement. Set out lunch food items and bottled waters for guests to make their own sack lunch. Host leaves around 7:30 p.m. If interested or would like more information, please contact Janet Verch cell: (480) 218-1357 email: jwowaz93@gmail.com
Thank you!

CALVIN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

the January Series

LISTEN | LEARN | DISCERN | 2023

9 Monday

SARA HENDREN
What Can the Body Do?

Underwritten by
Marla & Patrick O'Hara

10 Tuesday

MÓNICA GUZMÁN
Reclaiming Curiosity
in Divided Times

Underwritten by
the Howard Miller Company

11 Wednesday

NATE MOOK
The Urgent Pursuit
to Nourish the World

Underwritten by
Holland Litho

12 THURSDAY

KYLE MEYAARD-SCHAAP
Following Jesus in
a Warming World

Underwritten by
Miller Johnson

13 Friday

AMY KENNY
My Body Is Not
a Prayer Request

Underwritten by
Friend of the January Series

16 Monday

GREG THOMPSON
IN CELEBRATION OF MLK DAY
To Stick with Love: King's
Vision for Today's Movement

Underwritten by
Larry & Mary Gerbens

17 Tuesday

KAIA KATER
Song selections

Underwritten by
Friends of the January Series

18 Wednesday

NOAH TOLY
Learning Together,
Living Together:
What the World Needs from
Christian Liberal Arts Education

Underwritten by
Shirley & Jeff Hoogstra

19 Thursday

KERRI ARSENAULT
Family and
Environmental Legacies

In Partnership with
Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

20 Friday

MOOGEGA COOPER
Diversity in STEAM from a
Real-Life Guardian of the Galaxy

Underwritten by
GMB Architects + Engineering

23 Monday

KEN JENNINGS
And the Answer Is: Why Is
it Better to Be a Generalist

Underwritten by
the Peter C. and Emajean
Cook Foundation

24 Tuesday

PETER WEHNER
How Christianity Can Be a Healing
Force in American Society

Underwritten by
Holland Home
& the Henry Institute for the Study
of Christianity & Politics

25 Wednesday

ESAU MCCAULLEY
What is African American
Biblical Interpretation and Why
Does the Whole Church Need It

Underwritten by
The Stob Lecture Series

26 Thursday

EFOSA OJOMO
The Prosperity Paradox
and the Power of
Market-Creating Innovation

Underwritten by
the Howard Miller Company
and Calvin Center for Innovation
in Business

27 Friday

KATE BOWLER
Life After Perfect

Underwritten by
the Center for Excellence in Preaching

15 days of a free liberal arts education

calvin.edu/january



Choose your January Series 2023 experience: Attend the live presentation on Calvin's campus, watch the simulcast presentation at a remote site, or watch digitally on demand until midnight PST. Visit calvin.edu/january for details.

Free Simulcast:
10:30-11:30am MST
in Church Sanctuary



First Presbyterian Church

161 N Mesa Dr, Mesa, AZ 85201

<https://fpcmesa.org>

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

Mission Trip Save the Date – We are excited to announce that the dates for the 2023 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona, will be June 4th – 9th. We hope that you prayerfully consider coming. More information will be provided, but our interest list will begin now. Please reach out to Shelley Cronenberg (480-239-1289) if you would like to be on the list to receive updates.



Clothing Closet needs volunteers - The Clothing Closet would love for you to volunteer Monday and Fridays from 8:00-9:00 a.m. There is a core of experienced volunteers that are looking for extra hands and help during these hours. Volunteering couldn't be easier because you will be paired with a more experienced volunteer and there is no need to RSVP, just show up on the day that you are available, and the team will gladly accept any help that they can get. The current volunteers have wonderful stories that they can share where they have had the privilege of being Jesus's hands and helping serve the community. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Renita Jurgensen.

Christmas Joy Offering Thank you so much for your support of the leaders and church workers of the past, present and for the leaders of the future!



Christmas Angel Tree: We sponsored three families again this year with our Christmas Angel tree, and we made a huge difference for three local families. A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped these families! The gifts were delivered on Sunday, December 18th, and the families were so happy and incredibly grateful. Thank you again for your support of this longstanding Christmas tradition.

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



January Birthdays



<i>Stephanie Gerlach</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Ryan Posthumus</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Miron Webster</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Lois Boese</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Susan Logan</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Stan Snitzer</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Jan Montgomery</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Glenn Bennett</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Agwu Njoku</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Helen Letizia</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Sara McWhorter</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Bill Anderson</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Alice Schlak</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Shelley Cronenberg</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Bea Towe</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Ashlyn Newbry</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>David Jurgensen</i>	<i>29th</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.*

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

January

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

Youth meet at 11:20 a.m.
Youth Room

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday
Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

January 4 & 18

Women's Bible Study

January 4, 11, 18, 25

WRAP meets

January 8

Deacons meet

January 9-27 (Monday-Friday)

The January Series
(See page 6 of La Palabra for schedule)

January 9 & 10

Circles meet

January 15

Session meets

January 21

Piano Concert — "Chapel Jazz"

January 22

WRAP meeting



IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Perkins — December 28, 2022



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

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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
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**