

# La Palabra — 2022 Annual Report Edition

February 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## Annual Report for First Presbyterian Church of Mesa

### *A Message from David*

I want to say how grateful I am for the way you have welcomed me into your church family for a season of transition. We stand now on the threshold of a second year, and it is time to discern the vision that God has for our church and to feel *the momentum of sacred purpose*.

For most of my ministry I sensed that divine purpose was somehow inevitable, but happens in God's good time. In interim ministry, however, I have discovered that divine providence sometimes has *momentum* ~ almost as though at times God's in a hurry to get the job done!

I have been in situations that seemed so complicated that I was convinced they would require long term solutions, only to discover once more God's sense of humor when all the pieces suddenly fell into place with a precision of timing that was breathtaking. When I look back on those experiences in the church, I can now see why God needed things to come together when they did. They were times when I felt that *sacred purpose had momentum!*

Even so, we do not need a long drawn out process, but we do need the cooperation and participation of everyone ~ to provide feedback for the mission study, and to develop the programs that will prepare the way for new dimensions of ministry. We need to be asking, "How can I help? What do you need me to do?"

We may not have all the answers to those questions yet, but we are working on them, and hope to have them by the time you are encouraged in faith to gift yourself to the process.

God has been preparing the pastor you will call ~ not just for a few months, but for an entire lifetime. We need to be in the right place, at the right time, and in the right way, to extend the call of Christ to the one the Lord has prepared for us.

What an exciting time to be part of First Presbyterian Church Mesa!

David

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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) — Cheryl Gregory  
Worship (D) – Verna Green

## Annual Reports 2022: Staff DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

During 2022, our congregation came together in-person and online to lift God's light. With superb guidance from our Church Session, highlights during our year together included:

- The Sanctuary Choir welcomed several new choir members and Director Dr. Glenn Bennett (Hallelujah!)
- Preschool Chapels, with Chris McKee and Preschool Director Shiloh Murillo
- Men's Fellowship, 7:30 a.m. Tuesday mornings, Fellowship Hall and Zoom
- Combined Presbyteries at FPC
- [Weekly Worship Planning](#)
- Worship led by The Fabulous Blackwood Quartet
- Start of weekly rehearsals for First Ringers, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and Sanctuary Choir
- Worship led by Gospel Pianist Derek Rushing and Vocalist Audrey Rushing
- Palm Sunday Weekend: FPC 75th Anniversary Celebrations
- Small Group Zooms
- Worship in the Courtyard/BBQ
- Organ Student Recital, with Scholarship Recipients, Pinnacle Presbyterian Church
- Installation of new Sanctuary soundboard, gifted to FPC by Jan & John Peterson
- Staff Planning Retreat
- Hymnifest
- Restart of Preschool Chapels
- Organ Maintenance/Lighting Improvements
- Resident Brass Ensemble "Territorial Brass" returned to campus rehearsals
- Kids Praise Singers in Worship
- Advent Decorating "Carols by Candlelight"
- Southwest Chamber Chorale Concert
- Karen Rudin Music Studio Recital, online and in-person
- Music Sunday: FPC singers, signers, ringers, and band, in-person!, presenting "Following Yonder Star!"
- New Hymn "Lord of Song" composed for Sunday worship
- The Sanctuary Choir offered in worship "The Stockings Danced," with music set to a poem by Sarah Frances Bardwell.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons & Carols, 6:00 p.m. (live and virtual)
- The renovation of our 1932 Steinway & Sons piano, which was received from Fran & Jack Gunter. The instrument is a beautiful addition to our historic chapel.
- FIRST PLAYERS 24th annual production, *Singin' in the Rain*

We are blessed with faithful congregational participation in our music & drama ministries, and I am very thankful for each singer, ringer, signer, actor, and instrumentalist. I pray for God's richest blessings upon each of us as we continue to share in the joy of ministry and offer our gifts of worship and music. Special thanks go to each of our music groups, who have continued to share virtually and in-person: **PURE PRAISE VOICES**, Karen Rudin, Director; **FIRST RINGERS**, Bea Towe, Director; **HEARTS HANDS AND VOICES**, Karyn Weaver, Director; **ONE VOICE** and **SUNDAY SCHOOL MUSIC**, Anita Ramsey, Director; the **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, Dr. Glenn Bennett, Director; **DEI GLORIAM HANDBELL CHOIR**; and our **PRAISE BAND**, Erin Skarphol, Anita Ramsey, Sean Snitzer, Kevin Reeves, and Paul Soderquist; and to our **SOUND/VIDEO LEADERS**, Bob Schulz and Dave Jurgensen.

Respectfully Submitted, Mark Ramsey

## Annual Reports 2022: Commissions WORSHIP

The Worship Commission serves our congregation through the planning of weekly worship services, by facilitating the church Prayer Chain, by celebrating with families as they welcome new life, and by supporting families in times of grief. Items accomplished by the Worship Commission during 2022 included:

- Offering special worship services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve
- Stewardship Dedication Sunday/Fall Decorations prepared by Cheryl & Brent Gregory
- Cleaning and organizing the wedding/flower closet (Cheryl Gregory and Joy Schulz)
- The Presbyterian Women gifting the congregation with a beautiful new communion chalice.
- Planning for Special Offerings during the Church Year (One Great Hour of Sharing - Easter; Pentecost; Mesa Presbyterian Ministries - World Communion Sunday; and Joy Gift - Christmas Eve) and planning for Women's Sunday, Youth Sunday, Winter Visitors Sunday, a Ministry Fair, and a Season of Stewardship.
- The Fabulous Blackwood Quartet sang for our Sanctuary worship service, and a simulcast was offered in Fellowship Hall.
- Mother's Day and Father's Day Celebrations
- The Sanctuary was decorated with Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias, with additional decorations for Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, and other seasonal services.
- Returned to a printed Order of Worship with announcements.
- Anita Ramsey replaced Joy Schulz as Wedding Coordinator.
- A search has begun for a new baptismal font for our Sanctuary.
- Tricia MacDonald created Visitor Cups.
- Dan Reeves planned the schedule of families for Advent Candle Lighting.
- Supported the families and friends of our loved ones who passed away during the past year.
- Assisting in the planning of our annual Hymn Festival
- A small group met to adorn our Sanctuary with Advent & Christmas Decorations.
- Planned for 2023 Special Worship Services: Youth Sunday, 4/16; Winter Visitor Sunday; Women's Sunday, 4/12; Ministry Fair; Pledge Sunday.

### Items for Session Approval

- The Gospel According to Scrooge, presented by Theatrical Ministries (to include unmasked singing) [APPROVED]
- Gospel Pianist Derek Rushing and Vocalist Audrey Rushing will sing unmasked in worship, but the service will be simulcast in Fellowship Hall. [APPROVED]
- \$5,000. is requested for the purchase of a new Baptismal Font for our Sanctuary [APPROVED, with requests for recessed casters and an integrated shelf on the rear of the font.]
- The Worship Commission recommends approval of the following 2023 Communion days: the first Sunday of each month plus Maundy Thursday (4/6), Easter (4/9), and Christmas Eve. [APPROVED]

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries (Chair)  
Dan Reeves, Worship (E) 2024  
Cheryl Gregory, Worship (D) 2024  
Verna Green, Worship (D) 2025  
Joy Schulz, Prayer Chain Coordinator

Sandra Clark, Food Pantry Director & Worship  
Decorations  
Susan Durand, Greeters  
Renita Jurgensen, Funeral/Memorial/Reception  
Coordinator & Liturgists  
Don Wilson, Ushers

# WORSHIP



## COMING EVENTS

- 3/12 Women's Sunday
- 3/25 (Saturday) FPC Family Fun, Neighborhood Event, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Music, Games, Bounce House, Food, and Entertainment!)
- 3/26 Artist Series: Worship-Concert with Dr. Glenn Bennett and Dr. Mark Ramsey, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/2 Palm Sunday
- 4/9 Easter Sunday!

## Humoresque

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

An evangelical minister and a politician arrived at Heaven's gate. After the necessary formalities, St. Peter took them in hand to show them where their quarters would be. He took them to a small, single room with a bed, a chair, and a table and said this was for the clergyman. The politician was a little worried about what might be in store for him, and he couldn't believe it when St. Peter stopped in front of a beautiful mansion with lovely grounds and many servants and told him that these would be his quarters. The politician couldn't help but ask, "How do I get this mansion while that good and holy man only gets a single room?" St. Peter said, "You have to understand how things are up here. We've got thousands and thousands of clergy, but you're the first politician who ever made it." [from John Ried]



# DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children/Family Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko  
Youth/Young Adult (E) — Ian Harding

## Discipleship Commission Annual Report

### MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

Ministry revitalization was a key theme throughout 2022 and an exciting season of changes at FPC Mesa. Understanding and accepting change takes patience, prayers, flexibility, forward thinking with the willingness to try new things and simply trusting in God. Last spring, we welcomed neighborhood kids to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, as well as the children of Garden City Church, who worship on our campus. We have been so blessed to have a youth group at FPC and our teens did not disappoint by providing us a wonderful worship experience with Youth Sunday last April. In May, many of our high schoolers transitioned into young adulthood, and we celebrated with these amazing high school grads: Ben Gerlach, Aaron Chesko, Isobel Letizia, Mary Martin, Flora Njoku and Tanya Snitzer. As we moved into the fall, we experienced the reduced numbers in our youth program and yet we embraced the change with grace and centered our attention on the younger kids and families with the Pray and Play area in worship, successful family friendly events like bowling at Fat Cats, and Trunk or Treat for the children in our neighborhood.



In Christian Education, we presented Aden Sitzler his 3rd grade Bible, continued using the PCUSA's "Growing in Grace and Gratitude" for our elementary age children Sunday School. Our midweek program WRAP met on scheduled Wednesdays using the "Follow Me Biblical Practices for Faithful Living" by PCUSA. At WRAP, we discovered new and exciting ways to emphasize the importance of gathering as a faith community by breaking bread together with a meal, fellowship and Bible Study for all ages. In September we coordinated with our music ministry to launch children's choir programs on Sundays and Wednesdays to encourage children to join WRAP. Finding new and fresh ways to connect with children, families and adults both in-person and online continued to be our priority by acknowledging our online audience during worship, offering Zoom Bible Studies for some of our Adult Bible studies and periodic "Bedtime Stories with Chris," an online family devotional. FPC partnered with other Presbyterian churches and brought Montlure Traveling Day Camp to the East Valley last June to Mission del Sol Church in Tempe. FPC sent three campers and two youth counselors. We look forward to see how the Holy Spirit moves us in the year ahead.

### **A Glance at 2023:**

- Family Fun Neighborhood Event, March 25, 2023
  - Community Easter Egg Hunt, April 9, 2023
  - Children & Youth Sunday, April 16, 2023
  - East Valley Traveling Day Camp at Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church: June 26-30, 2023
  - Montlure Overnight Camps:
    - Senior High Camp June 20-25, 2023
    - Junior High Camp June 27-July 1, 2023
    - 4-6 Grades July 5-9, 2023
- Register at [Montlure.org](http://Montlure.org). Partial campership available on our church website.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris McKee, Minister of Faith Formation

## Discipleship Commission Year in Pictures



Easter Egg Hunt 2022



WRAP Closing BBQ 2022



Youth/Young Adult Sunday



Traveling Day Camp 2022



Fall Ministry Fair Kids Activity



Family Bowling Day at Fat Cats





Aiden Sitzler's 3rd Grade Bible



Trunk or Treat Fun



Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Day

## DEACONS

Co-Moderator — Sue Eisenklam  
 Co-Moderator — Robert Harding  
 Seasonal Ministries — Dale Gibson  
 Worship — Cheryl Gregory  
 Worship — Verna Green

Personnel — Roma Naccarato  
 Nominating — Anita Ramsey  
 Nominating — Jeff Seehorn  
 Funerals/Memorials—Renita Jurgensen  
 Prayer Chain — Joy Schulz

Assimilation — Deborah Rosen  
 Mission --- Sue Eisenklam  
 Fellowship — Kate McMichael  
 Fellowship — Brooks Newbry  
 Fellowship — Todd Ramsey  
 Fellowship — Jo Beth Walstrom

### Annual Report: Deacons

Deacons have been contacting people in their care through phone calls, text messages, letters, cards, and visits throughout the year. By now every member of the congregation should know who your Deacon is and have heard from him or her. If you do not know who your Deacon is, please contact one of the co-moderators, Sue Eisenklam at 480-993-6512 or Robert Harding at 480-766-2315. Also, Deacons continue to participate in the vital work of the commissions. In addition to the primary work of the Deacons of reaching out to the members of the congregation and being involved with Commissions, Deacons have been participating in discussions of church revitalization. The current roster of Deacons is Todd Ramsey, Brooks Newbry, JoBeth Walstrom, Deborah Rosen, Jeff Seehorn, Robert Harding, Dale Gibson, Cheryl Gregory, Kate McMichael, Roma Naccarato, Verna Green, and Sue Eisenklam.

## Preschool Annual Report 2022



We had many challenges at the preschool this past year, but God is good and has helped us along the way! In January 2022 we had 23 children enrolled. These families were consistent and enjoyed having fun events like the Mesa Fire Department visit as well as celebrating Valentine's Day with us. We also enjoyed our family Carnival Day and were able to bring in Carter's Petting Zoo and pony ride for the kids. What fun! Very cherished and fond memories!



We have seen many children come to our school with challenging behaviors, family issues, developmental delays and personal problems that have needed additional support from our Quality First Coach and our Mental Health consultant for early childhood. Their support is immeasurable and helped navigate so many unknowns that we face with these families. With these challenges, one of our teachers left the program, so we were on the search for a new assistant teacher in the PreK classroom. We welcomed in Ms. Alex Barry to work with Ms. Nicki and they made a great pair to finish out the 2021-2022 school year!



The opening of the 2022-2023 school year in August was so exciting! We had 27 kids on the roster, which is a return to pre-pandemic enrollment numbers! The two teachers & one substitute teacher (Nicki McInnelly, Sara Wheat & Chantal Howell) were thrilled to start back. And we hired two new teachers as well: Kelly Quirke & Lindsey Augeri. The school year started out strong, and we quickly found our rhythm with the children and routines. Unexpectedly, Kelly Quirke left the program, and we began to search for a permanent replacement. We adapted and Shiloh Murillo filled in as the temporary classroom substitute. By the end of December we hired a new assistant teacher Cece Forbes who started in January 2023. It has been a good fit!



The preschool is working on making long term plans to do some renovations that we hope to complete during the summer of 2023. We are planning to remodel the bathrooms and paint the entire interior of the school. We have been saving our money to make these things possible. It is a refreshing feeling to know that the children and families will be able to enjoy the benefits of that for a long time!

Many of the changes that had to be made around the preschool were met with grace, and we have found our groove with great success! With this, I want to celebrate the Preschool Board. We thank all our representatives who serve: Pam Godfrey-Robles (Chair), Anita Ramsey (Secretary), David Frederick (Member at Large) Nicki McInnelly, Susan Chesko (Commission Elder) & Chris McKee (Staff Member) and two new Parent Reps, Bonnie Castillo & RaShawna Downing. All eight members have been instrumental in helping navigate the challenges that face the preschool. It is such a blessing to have this group of individuals who represent the voice of the community and give weight and knowledge to the issues at hand. Thank you!



As we look forward to 2023, we are hopeful that the Lord will continue to bless us by bringing the children of this community to our program. We know that He is present in all that we do here, especially in the hearts of these little children! Lastly, we appreciate all your love and your willingness to continue to make the Preschool a ministry of the church. We recognize that you are an integral part to the success of our program, especially through prayer and with the school supply drive in the summer each year! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Shiloh Murillo





FPC's Presbyterian Women had a spirited, productive year! Twenty-eight active members and guests meet monthly in three Circles, one less than last year, from September through May. Deborah is our second Tuesday morning group, Rachel meets second Tuesday mid-day, and Eve meets on the second Monday afternoon. We finished Meryl Blair's "What My Grandmothers Taught Me; Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus" in May, and in September started the current study, "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight" by Carol M. Bechtel. Each circle enjoys a mission reading and the Bible study lesson, and, importantly, fellowship and mutual support.



Our annual pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale was a grand success, thanks significantly to the FPC congregation who not only purchased baked goods but also contributed many delicious items to support our many mission contributions. Thanks to all who participated in any way.

We engaged in several inspirational and social events this year. Our spring luncheon welcomed Chris Casanova, our PW Synod Moderator-elect as our speaker and enjoyed a beautiful interpretation of "You Raise Me Up" by Hearts Hands and Voices. A new addition to our calendar this year was the Women's Appreciation Tea in September where we enjoyed tasty treats, a sip of tea, and recognized many unsung heroes of FPC who work diligently, often without acknowledgment. Many FPC ladies attended; a lovely time was had by all! Several ladies attended some or all of the Synod of the Southwest Fall Retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Phoenix. And, as always, our Christmas Holiday luncheon was delicious, fun and inspirational with a heartwarming talk by Dr. Juliana Leshner on "Lord, Let It Be According to Your Word."

A highlight of every year is Women's Gift Sunday in March led by PW women this year. Our Honorary Lifetime Member Award went to Brent Gregory this year for his endless contributions to our church. PW also presented a new chalice for the communion table as a gift for FPC's 75th anniversary. We are very blessed to have a one-person mission project represent PW in endless places, Prayer Quilts lovingly made by Sara McWhorter!

All the glory be to God for all of our blessings, especially new members and guests who join us for any and all events.

## MISSION

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

Mission/Deacon Moderator (D) – Sue Eisenklam  
Mission (D) – Robert Harding  
Seasonal Ministries (D) – Dale Gibson  
Young Adult (E) – Aaron Chesko

### Mission Commission Annual Report Submitted by: Shelley Cronenberg, Mission Elder

**I-Help** - For the year 2022, FPC volunteers have hosted approximately 15 women four/five Sundays per month (approximately 10 volunteer hours per week). This includes dinner, showers, a safe place to sleep and a sack lunch for the next day. Janet Verch, the program coordinator, attends church sponsor meetings every other month (with Lutheran Social Services), where we discuss what works best and how we can improve the program at each site. Based on the yearly report from LSS (July 2021-June 2022) New Guests = 79, Moved into housing = 10, Women that found Employment = 20, Shelter Bed Nights = 4,773. LSS is still looking for a host church on some Wednesdays, if you know of a church that might be interested in participating, please contact Janet Verch. I also want to thank all the dedicated volunteers who host and prepare dinner meals for the ladies once a month, we couldn't do it without you! I would also like to acknowledge the FPC I-Help mission has recently received very a generous donation from the congregation, it is so appreciated!

**Seasonal Ministries** – Angel Tree: we sponsored three families this year. In total we gave approximately 80 gifts. Additionally, we also gave each family a frozen turkey, food boxes, personal items, cleaning items, and paper items. Everything was delivered on Sunday, December 18, 2022. A big thank you to everyone who participated!



**Mission Co-workers** - Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar are our mission coworkers again this year with Frontero de Cristo. Their ministry sits on the US/Mexico border in Agua Prieta. 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering went to our partners at Frontero de Cristo.



**Special Offerings** - Thank you for your continued generosity!

- One Great Hour of Sharing: Giving was \$1,110.
- Pentecost Offering: Giving was \$1,496.39 in donations of which \$598.56 went to Montlure to help them open up in Greer.
- Global Peace and Witness Offering: Giving was \$2,305. Of that money, \$1,157.50 (50%) went to the Presbyterian Mission Agency and \$578.75 (25%) went to the Grand Canyon Presbytery, and the remaining \$578.75 (25%) went to Frontera de Cristo (our mission partners in Mexico).
- Christmas Joy Offering: Giving was \$1,321.

**Mission Trip** – Mission Possible 2022 Mission Trip. We partnered again this year with CarePortal to help families in need. We had 3 teams, a prayer team, a donation team, and a delivery team. All the teams came together to help five families which included a total of 19 kids. The mission week went from Thursday, June 9th – Sunday June 12th and so many people came together to make this mission a huge success.

**CarePortal** – CarePortal is a ministry that helps kids stay with their families instead of going into foster care. Social Workers can enter the specific needs of children into the CarePortal system and local churches can offer to help a family by donating either new or used items that they need. Our church's goal is to help one family every month. The last few families we have helped were a teen girl who was removed from her home and living with a friend. She did not have sheets or clothes. Church members took care of that need and delivered (Sue and Miki N.). Another recent family was a mom that left an abusive relationship with



her baby and toddler. They were staying at the women's shelter. We took over bags of clothes and gift cards for groceries for Mom and children (Served by Aiden and Ellen). If you are interested in being on the email list, please reach out to Ellen Hickey who leads this ministry.



**Clothing Closet** – The clothing closet has a team of folks that work to organize donated clothing where they continuously serve to provide slightly used and new clothing items to anyone who needs them. Items are sorted, organized by size, and handed out to grace many various people, including the I-Help women who come on Sunday nights. The congregation's generous donations of time, financial and clothing items is one of the realist ways we as a church help to fill various clothing needs to the surrounding community.

**Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM)** - Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, started by Bob Gerlach, is a qualified charitable organization with the mission to keep families in their homes. Congregational members Jack and Yvonne Oliver, and Brent Gregory volunteer to call and interview clients who need help paying their rent and utilities. Over one hundred families received a total of \$45,159.00 in assistance from MPM in 2022.



**Café Justo** – We are again selling Café Justo quarterly. In April, we as a church purchased 18 bags of Café Justo. In June we purchased 15, in September 7, and in December 43. Thank you all for helping this mission and for helping the farmers of this delicious coffee to earn a living wage.

## MISSION AT WORK





## ADMINISTRATION

Property (E) (Chair) — Dave Frederick  
Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach  
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

Personnel (D) — Roma Naccarato  
Nominating (E) — Marcy Snitzer

Nominating (D) — Anita Ramsey  
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Brent Gregory

### Administration Commission Annual Report

#### PROPERTY

Dave Frederick

We are blessed to share our campus with several outside groups via on going lease agreements.

- Ghana Presbyterian worships in the Chapel
- Iglesia de Dios El Gran Pastor worships in the Chapel
- Garden City Church worships in Fellowship Hall
- Preschool classes in the Jackson rooms
- Early Head Start in the nursery
- Head Start holds class in the Head Start classrooms
- Alcoholics Anonymous is using the Parlor

The property Committee has several capital improvement projects in the works, however none were completed this year. Supply chain issues and scheduling difficulties with contractors have delayed these into 2023.

A group of volunteers has been formed into the Capital Projects Committee which meets monthly to help plan these projects.

Property Committee continues to prioritize improving the look of the campus, energy-efficiency, and maintaining a secure facility.

#### CLERK OF SESSION

Carol Gerlach

The Book of Order defines the duties of the Clerk of Session: . . . a clerk shall record the transactions of the council, keep its rolls of membership and attendance, maintain any required registers, preserve its records and furnish extracts from them when required by another council of the church.

**MEETINGS:** All Session Meetings are now held in-person in the Library with a Zoom link for those who choose to attend online.

- We met 10 times (not in July or August).
- The Annual Congregational Meeting and Corporation Meeting was held in February.
- There were two Called Session Meetings (March and August).
- There were two Called Congregational Meetings (January and June).
- We hosted the presbytery Big Event in August.

#### ROLLS AND REGISTERS:

- On January 1 our membership was 251 (155 females).
- We added 0 new members.
- Six members joined the Church Triumphant.
- Three members were transferred to churches in other states.
- Two members were removed from the Rolls.
- On December 31 our membership was 240 (148 females).
- We have 8 Affiliate Members.
- There were no Baptisms.
- There were three Marriages.
- Our Average Weekly Worship Attendance was 105 in-person and 92 online for a total average weekly attendance of 197.

#### STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Brent Gregory

The members of the Finance Committee are Stewardship Elder Brent Gregory, Property Elder Dave Frederick, Clerk of Session Carol Gerlach, Endowment Committee chair Jack Gunter, and at-large members Carolyn Barber, Peter Eisenklam, Bob Gerlach, and Jan Montgomery. Pastor David Hodgson and

bookkeeper Rob Kjar also attend meetings. The committee met monthly to review the church's financial reports and has undertaken the following actions in 2022:

- Recommended the 2022 budget to the Session
- Completed a financial review for the year ending 12/31/2021.
- Completed a successful stewardship campaign with pledges and prepaids totaling \$264,192 for the general fund and \$23,715 for the capital fund.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

**Brent Gregory**

The members of the Endowment Committee are Dave Frederick, Jack Gunter, Renita Jurgensen, Ron Payton, and Skeets Throckmorton, with Brent Gregory, Stewardship and Finance Elder serving as an ex-officio member. The committee met twice during 2022 and has undertaken the following actions:

- Continued oversight of the Endowment Funds investment with a 2022 beginning balance of \$552,931 and a year-end balance of \$497,946.
- Received a gift of \$831 for the General Endowment.
- Disbursed \$1,243 for camperships from the Montlure Endowment.
- Continued to interpret the endowment concept to the congregation through the Endowment Funds brochure.

### 2023 Per Capita Apportionment:

General Assembly:	\$ 9.85
Synod of the Southwest:	5.00
Presbytery of Grand Canyon:	<u>23.66</u>
Total —	\$38.51

Per capita is a set amount of money per member local PC(USA) churches pay each year to support the governing bodies of the larger church. Please consider a contribution toward your share of the per capita apportionment.

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## FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Erin Skarphol  
Fellowship (D) — Jo Beth Walstrom  
Presbyterian Women — Carol Anderson

Fellowship (D)— Kate McMichael  
Fellowship (D) — Todd Ramsey  
Fellowship (D) – Brooks Newbry

Moderator (D) – Sue Eisenklam  
Co-Moderator (D) – Robert Harding

# FPC Annual Meeting

## & Chili Cook-off

February 26th after Worship



**Chili, cornbread, salad, drinks, and dessert!**

## February Birthdays



Peggy Anderson	1st
Will Snitzer	2nd
Jean Chappell	9th
Isobel Letizia	9th
Aaron Chesko	10th
Ginny Mallia	11th
Garrett Hull	12th
Kate Buck	14th
John Peterson	15th
Bob Schulz	15th
Jack Goings	16th
Richard Schroeder	19th
Bryan Hickey	25th
Elly Weinel	26th
Matthew McKee	27th
Linda Free	28th

**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](mailto:pastor@fpcmesa.org)  
Mark Ramsey: [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org)  
Chris McKee: [chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)  
Linda Reeves: [pubs@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pubs@fpcmesa.org)  
Don Krill: [buildings@fpcmesa.org](mailto:buildings@fpcmesa.org)  
Rob Kjar: [business@fpcmesa.org](mailto:business@fpcmesa.org)

## Calendar Notes

### February

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

### February

Men's Fellowship every Tuesday  
Fellowship Hall and via ZOOM

### February 13 & 14

Circles meet

### February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!

### February 15

Women's Bible Study

### February 19

Session meets

### February 20

President's Day — Office closed

### February 22

Ash Wednesday

WRAP dinner prior to service

### February 26

Monthly Food Drive

Annual Congregational Meeting  
Chili Cookoff

**Financial Reports are not published but are available for pick up in the Sanctuary or church office later this month.**



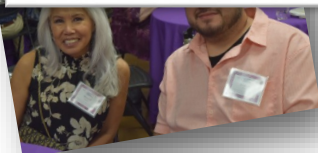
# SCENES FROM 2022!





# "The Joy of the Journey"

First Presbyterian Church  
**75th Anniversary**  
April 9-10, 2022  
Mesa, AZ









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

**LA PALABRA**

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**Website: [www.fpcmesa.org](http://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**