

# La Palabra

March 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

**“Repent! For the kingdom of heaven has come near!”** (Matthew 3:2 and 4:17)

Spring is upon us and it is a busy season indeed! Here at FPC Mesa, there is a flurry of activity leading up to the annual musical (Singin’ in the Rain), as well as excitement about Women’s Sunday (March 15th). These two annual events involve a great many members of our congregation and are occasions we all look forward to every year.

March also marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on February 26th this year and we will mark this as the beginning of our Lenten journey with a worship service and imposition of ashes at 7:00 pm in our chapel. March 1st then begins the first Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a season of reflection and contemplation; a season of prayer and penitence. It is a beautiful and deeply meaningful season in our life as Christ-followers. My prayer is that you will hear and accept the invitation to draw nearer to God during the 40 days of Lent. What that looks like and how that happens will likely be different for each one of us. Some may commit to a time of daily silence and prayer, while others may desire to actively engage in acts of service or in what has traditionally been called “alms giving.” You may want to read through one of the gospels, or maybe even all four, during Lent, reflecting upon the life and ministry of Jesus as well as upon his death and resurrection. Worshipping regularly with the congregation may also deepen your relationship with God and strengthen your faith.

As a congregation, our time together in worship as the gathered people of God is precious and sacred time when we share in the unity we have been given in Christ Jesus our Lord. During Lent, our worship time will continue with our emphasis on the parables of Jesus as we focus on the Parable of the Prodigal Son and hear the story from many perspectives. May we all feel and experience the goodness of being welcomed, embraced, and loved in the strong yet gentle arms of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

The kingdom of heaven has indeed come near! Let us enjoy its blessings and share the good news!

Grace and peace in Christ

~ Ann

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## WORSHIP

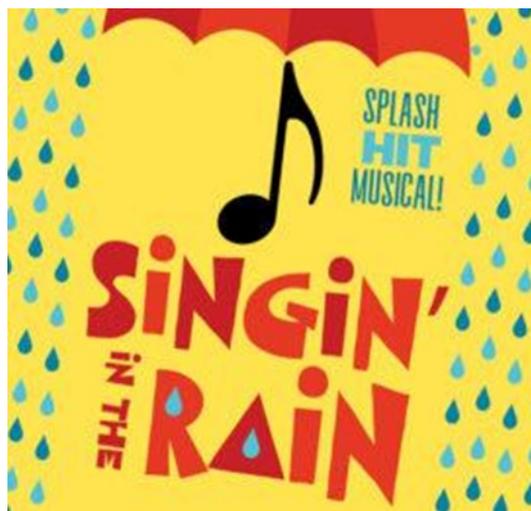
Worship (E) – Dan Reeves  
Dir. Of Music Ministries (Chair) – Mark Ramsey  
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

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



You are invited to THE FIRST PLAYERS' 24TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION, *Singin' in the Rain*, with Dinner Theaters on March 27 & 28 and Matinee Theater on March 29 (Friday-Sunday). For Ticket, Menu, and Show Info, visit [fpc-mesa.org/first-players](http://fpc-mesa.org/first-players), and tickets are available during Sunday fellowship time and in the Church Office during the week. The "Greatest Movie Musical of All Time" is faithfully and lovingly adapted by Broadway legends, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green, from their original award-winning screenplay in *Singin' in the Rain*. 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!

FPC Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. We will have six notable levels of donation: Fermata (\$1,000 & Up), Whole Note (\$500 - \$999), Half Note (\$200 - \$499), Quarter Note (\$100 - \$199), Eighth Note (\$50 - \$99), Sixteenth Note (\$25 - \$49). Artist Series concert fees range from \$300 - \$2,000. If you would like to contribute financially, checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church," with memo notation "Artist Series" and sent to: Mark Ramsey, First Presbyterian Church, 161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa, AZ, 85201-6794. Contributors will be listed in future concert programs or, if requested, will remain anonymous. For more information on our Artist Series, please contact the Music Office, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Current donors are listed on the [Artist Series](#) page of our church website.

Combined Worship on Palm Sunday, April 5th, will be held at 10:00 a.m. in our FPC Courtyard. Join us for this festive worship celebration, featuring the parade of palms, Pastor Ann, and our HolyGrounds Praise Band.

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary, please sign up today by picking up a form on the kiosk or in the church office. Fresh lilies may be purchased for \$10. The lilies may be taken after worship on Easter Sunday. Orders must be received in the church office no later than Sunday, April 5th.

### Coming Events

- 3/15 Women's Sunday
- 3/27-29 Singin' in the Rain Dinner-Theaters
- 4/5 (Palm Sunday) Worship & BBQ in our FPC Courtyard, 10:00 a.m.

## Humoresque

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

Ralph and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Ralph suddenly jumped into the deep end. He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there. Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out. When the Head Nurse became aware of Edna's heroic act, she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable. When she went to tell Edna the news she said, 'Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love. I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness. The bad news is, Ralph hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so sorry, but he's dead.' Edna replied, 'He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry. How soon can I go home?' [from Dick Baird]

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## 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

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! More events are in the planning stages, so stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!

- March 27th thru 29th — Dinner theater in Fellowship Hall
- April 5th — Worship in the Courtyard at 10:00 a.m. with a BBQ afterwards



Come meet and hear Joca Gallegos on March 15th, when she will be our guest preacher for Women's Sunday. Our Mission Team met Joca during the 2019 mission trip, where she added so much to their experiences with Frontera de Cristo.

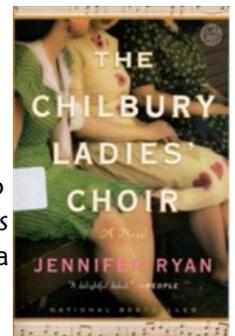
Named Mexican Coordinator of Frontera de Cristo in 2014, Joca Gallegos (Rosario Jocabed Gallegos Viesca) first came to the border in 1990 when her father undertook the same position. She was born in Gómez Palacio, Durango, and attended seminary in Mexico City (one of only three women studying theology) from 1998 until her graduation in 2002. She served as youth counselor in her presbytery, served in a church in Nogales, Sonora, and assisted with health ministry in South

Carolina before becoming an intern at Frontera de Cristo in 2010 and later Facilitator for Mission Delegations.

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

*The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* by Jennifer Ryan

When the Vicar of the church in a small village in England decrees there will no longer be a choir because all the men are away at the war the women choir members take charge. Their choir without men persists through wartime challenges and becomes a prize-winning choir.



## 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

**WEDNESDAY WRAP:** WRAP is a mid-week Christian Education and fellowship program, which meets on scheduled Wednesdays 5:00-7:00 p.m. Our current block focus is on Kings & Queens of the Bible. Please consider registering and join us for dinner, fellowship and Bible study. Programming is available for children, youth and adults. There will be no WRAP on March 11th due to Spring Break. (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! Registration is now open online: <https://montlure.campbrainregistration.com> If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Chris.

#### Montlure Overnight Camp Dates Summer 2020

Senior High: June 7-12

Junior High: June 14-19

Juniors: July 5-9

Partial church scholarships are available. Please see the church website for details. Registration is open online: <https://montlure.campbrainregistration.com>

**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](mailto:mrcheese113@gmail.com)

### FPC Youth Ministry (Middle and High School)

**Youth Volunteers Requested:** The First Players Community Theater is hard at work preparing dinner-theatre productions of SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, and they are anxious to have you join them! We'll need 8 youth set-up/servers and 6 youth/adult cleanup helpers each night (family members are welcome/encouraged for the cleanup crew!). Please sign-up with Chris. The dates: March 27 & 28, 4:30-6:30 setup/servers & 8:30-9:30 cleanup; March 29, setup/servers 1:30-3:30 & 5:30-6:30 cleanup. Dress: black bottoms, white short-sleeve tops.

**Youth Worship Service:** FPC youth will get the opportunity to led worship on April 19th during one combined service at 10:00 a.m. We will be rehearsing Wednesday April 15th, at 5:00 p.m., in the sanctuary as well as Saturday, April 18th, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

#### Youth Activities Calendar

March 15 at 10:15 a.m., Coffee Run to Dunkin' Donuts

March 15 at 2:00 p.m. Games and Such

March 27-29 – Servers at Musical Theater

April 26, 2:00 p.m., Bowling

In Christ,  
Chris McKee  
Minister of Faith Formation  
[Chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:Chris@fpcmesa.org)



Spring has Sprung at the Preschool and that means everything is new! New themes and new adventures! Our latest discoveries around our campus have included making volcanoes and spending time outside blowing bubbles in this great weather! We are celebrating new life, too, by studying pond life, insects and bugs during the month of March. Also, we will be hosting our annual Preschool Carnival on March 6th during the school day and would love to have you join us! One more thing, we will take a special trip to the Church Sanctuary on March 25th to learn more about the special things that take place there. It will be a

neat experience for the families!

We are gearing up for open registrations for the new school year 2020. We need your help getting the word out about our little patch of heaven, our Preschool. Did you know that our preschool has an 80% referral rate? That means that people know how great our program is because of voices like yours in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations for the Fall 2020 school year starting on March 16th and have plenty of space in both of our classrooms. Scholarships are available through income qualifications. Please send family, friends and people you see playing in the park our way. Thank you!

Lastly, we really appreciate the monetary donation from the Presbyterian Women and thank you for all of your love and support. Your donation will go towards buying more 3 oz paper cups, bubbles and prizes for our carnival that is coming up.

We hope you have a wonderful spring season and may God bless your family.

Shiloh Murillo, Director

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### ADMINISTRATION

Property (E) (Chair) — Robert Harding  
 Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach  
 Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

Personnel (D) — Carol Anderson  
 Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Michael Gerlach  
 Stewardship/Finance (E) — Brent Gregory

### Officers Elected at the February 23rd Congregational Meeting

#### Elders

David Frederick, Property  
 Kristen Hull, Family Ministries  
 Karen Rudin, Adult/Small Group  
 Ben Gerlach, Youth Elder  
 Mary Martin, Youth Elder

#### Deacons

Jan Montgomery, Co-Moderator  
 Jennifer Martin, Fellowship  
 Todd Ramsey, Fellowship  
 Jo Beth Walstrom, Fellowship  
 Deborah Rosen, Assimilation

#### Nominating Committee

Hal Engman, Member at Large

## 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



### Mission Trip

Mission Trip Our mission trip is now official, and you are invited to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona, from June 28 – July 3. We are partnering with Montlure Traveling Day camp this year which is exciting.

We need volunteers so if you have gone before or always wanted to do a mission trip, perhaps this is the perfect trip for you. We will have a pre-interest meeting in Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 8th and March 15th.

One Great Hour of Sharing is during the season of Lent. We will kick off this special offering with a Minute for Mission on Sunday, March 22nd. Envelopes will be in the pews that Sunday. This season of giving runs through Easter, April 12th.

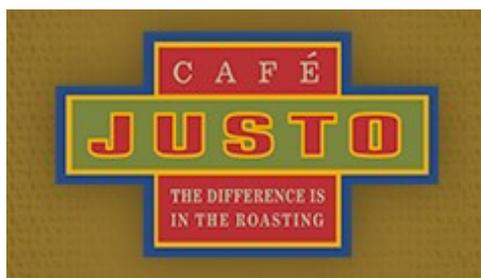
As in the past, there will be a banner with fishes on it to show the hundreds of dollars you so generously give. “Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, opportunity.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The three programs supported by the OGHs are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People. All work in different ways to serve individuals in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope.” (PCUSA World Mission)

Blue Out Sunday for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will be Sunday, March 29th. Wear your blue in support of this vital program that responds initially to disaster and then sustains support throughout the rebuilding of lives afterwards.



Café Justo quarterly sales for March will be taken now through March 15th. We are trying something new with Café Justo orders. To make sure that we purchase the right amount of what everyone needs, we will be taking orders via an online sign up through Google Docs where you can access the link below and add your information and the coffee that you would like to purchase. I will also have a signup sheet available in the front office. Since this is a new process, please call Shelley

Cronenberg if you need any assistance at 480-239-1289.

Online order form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16mlglyxzG0kUAclgyAUvllaoCw2eyD9NIgcyDlviN4Y/edit>

## March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Adam Cronenberg	1st
Cleta Enck	1st
Carol Letizia	3rd
Joyce Baum	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Dennis Sitzler	9th
Helen Lents	11th
Marilu Thompson	12th
Pam Robles	16th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Marilyn Uithoven	20th
Caroline Cline	25th
Joshua Anderson	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Frances Kaufmann	31st
Bill Lents	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.

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Miller, Dave & Tammy  
701 S. Dobson Rd., Lot 630  
Mesa, AZ 85202

Stirling, Carol  
7255 E. Broadway Rd., Building 2, #226  
Mesa, AZ 85208

### Calendar Notes

#### March 2

Deacons meet

#### March 9 & 10

Circles meet

#### March 11

No WRAP (Spring Break)

#### March 15

Women's Sunday

#### March 22

Commissions & Session meet

#### March 27 & 28

Singin' in the Rain Dinner Theater (5:00 p.m.)

#### March 29

Monthly Food Drive

Singin' in the Rain Matinee Theater (2:30 p.m.)

**Personnel is looking to fill the position** of a part-time Church Sexton being vacated by Bryan Hickey as he is going into the Air Force in April. This position requires the setting up, taking down the tables and dry mopping the floor in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday WRAP days, Sunday mornings and other special occasions such as funerals & memorials, luncheons, fellowship gatherings, etc. The sexton will also be responsible for bringing in the blue barrels, taking out the trash, and locking all doors and gates. Dead line for applying is March 15th. If you are interested in this position or would like a complete list of job duties, please contact, Jeanne Partida, Personnel Elder, 602-292-8940, or Pastor Ann Conklin.

# GIVING PerCapita

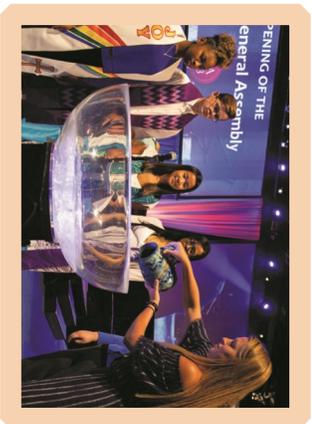
## HOW DID PER CAPITA GET STARTED?

The earliest Presbyterian General Assemblies in the U.S. met annually, always in Philadelphia. As the church expanded into far-off places like Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri, attendance at the Assembly became prohibitively expensive to frontier commissioners.

In order to share the costs of bringing the whole church together, in 1806 the Assembly began development of a “Commissioner Travel Expense Fund.” Over the years this came to be known as per capita.

## WHERE DOES THE GA PORTION OF MY PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION GO?

Through your per capita contributions, which provide almost the entire budget of the Office of the General Assembly, you enable many faithful ministries, including:



- Discerning God’s will together as a denomination
  - Through biennial General Assemblies (GA) — covering expenses for commissioners and advisory delegates, the venue, technology, training of leaders, the exhibit hall, and more
  - Through special committees established by a GA to dig deeply into issues of particular concern to the church, and through standing committees providing guidance for ongoing work
- Training church leaders — for sessions, congregations, and mid councils through events and the new “Equip PC(USA)” online platform
- Engaging with those studying and preparing for ministry
  - Through ordination exams and connections with seminaries
  - Through support for Certified Christian Educators
- Supporting the call processes of churches through the Church Leadership Connection online portal and personal consultations

- Building connections with local councils
  - Through the travel and presence of the GA Co-Moderators, the Stated Clerk, and OGA staff
  - Through various communications

- Engaging local communities as neighbors through the “Hands and Feet” initiative — including the “End Cash Bail” campaign and work happening now in Baltimore prior to the 224th GA in summer 2020
- Preserving and maintaining our history through the Presbyterian Historical Society, which can preserve the minutes and other history of your congregation, along with other records of the PC(USA)
- Attending to the covenant life of the PC(USA)
  - By editing and publishing of the Book of Order every two years
  - By interpreting the Book of Order and supporting judicial process for discipline and restoration
  - By supporting and holding accountable all work of representation and inclusion to help the church more clearly reflect Christ’s Beloved Community
  - By supporting Korean-speaking councils
  - By collecting and tracking statistics about the PC(USA)
- Engaging in issues of justice through immigration advocacy and legal support, including helping church workers from abroad obtain the appropriate visas
- Supporting and engaging in ecumenical and interreligious witness and relationships locally and worldwide



Some expenses of the Presbyterian Mission Agency are also funded by per capita, including the Office of the Executive Director, the PMA Board, communications, and advisory and advocacy committees.

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

See calendar on website:  
[fpcmesa.org/calendar](http://fpcmesa.org/calendar)

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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**