

# La Palabra

March 2021

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

As so much in our world is changing and we can't be sure what is coming next, it is helpful to be reminded of the steadfastness of God and God's love for the world. God is faithful to God's covenant and has promised to be with us always.

With that in mind, I want to remind us of the Foundations of our Faith as laid out for us in our Book of Order. The first three chapters concern the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, opening with the Mission of the Church. Here is what is written about God's Mission (F-1.01):

*The good news of the Gospel is that the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. This one living God, the Scriptures say, liberated the people of Israel from oppression and covenanted to be their God. By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing good news to all who are impoverished, sight to all who are blind, freedom to all who are oppressed, and proclaiming the Lord's favor upon all creation.*

*The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission.*

During Lent, this season of repentance and rebirth, let us be reminded of our participation in God's mission for the transformation of our community. Let us be aware of what God is doing in our midst and prayerful about how God is calling us to participate. Let us proclaim the good news, offer grace, and be active in our discipleship. Only then we will truly live into our call to glorify and enjoy God now and forever!

May you sense God very near to you during this holy time as we journey toward the cross of 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) — Cheryl Gregory

### 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



Women's Sunday will be held on the 4th Sunday of Lent, March 14th. The service will include Organist Alice Edwards, Song Leader Karen Rudin, and a Virtual Women's Choir. All sopranos and altos are welcome to participate in the choir. Please contact me for details!

Easter Sunday Worship will be held on April 4th at 10:00 a.m. and will be led from our Sanctuary Patio. Once again the service will be livestreamed and will be broadcast to our vehicles in the parking lot. We'll join in a Festival Worship Service, with special music offered by our choirs, organ(!), and piano, and the Easter celebration music will be led by the HolyGrounds Praise Band! "Our Lord Is Risen, Indeed!"

Join Dr. Glenn Bennett and me for a worship-concert next month. Morning worship on Sunday, April 25th, will include unaccompanied vocal music, organ solos, music for voice and organ, and a beautiful arrangement of "You Raise Me Up" for tenor, piano, and violin. Glenn will also offer the powerful spiritual, "Ride On, King Jesus!", hymn arrangements, and Psalms. Organ music will include the Antiphons of French composer Marcel Dupré, a Camille Saint-Saëns Fugue, and a brief, light-hearted arrangement of Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*. Join us as together we celebrate the beautiful blessings of God's majestic music!

Did you miss last Sunday's service? Service information, recordings, and archives of our weekly sermons/services are available on our church website, at [www.fpcmesa.org/sermons](http://www.fpcmesa.org/sermons).

### Coming Events

- 3/14 Women's Sunday
- 4/4 Easter Service of Resurrection, Online and in our Church Parking Lot, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/11 Youth Sunday
- 4/25 Worship-Concert with Tenor Dr. Glenn Bennett & Organist Dr. Mark Ramsey, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

### Humoresque

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

A teacher was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on. He asked for help, and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. When the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off then it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on - this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again. She said, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I tuffed them in the toes of my boots..."



During this Lenten time, as we appreciate all the abundant blessings God has given us, we reflect back and look forward. At PW February Circle meetings, our members completed Lesson Six, Lament Over the City, from the study, “Into the Light; Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament.” We are thankful and support our FPC congregation, working together in many ways promoting the welfare of our own city, Mesa. Next month’s study lesson shifts to Lamenting the Creation. Our earth, air, water, flora and fauna: all of God’s creation as well as humanity is groaning and moaning with lament. Our world is in need of healing and in God we trust to guide us in our stewardship.

The past couple months several of our circles have formed teams, preparing presentations for the upcoming Celebration of Women’s Sunday. The subject of the message is “Inspirational Women.” Presenters will spotlight a few of the many Biblical and contemporary women who have left an impact and continue to do so. Please join us for this special honorary service on March 14th. Our hope is you find it enlightening, educational and enjoyable as well as inspirational.

The purpose of Presbyterian Women is: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves; to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; to support the mission of the church worldwide; to work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.

Anyone interested may attend a Bible Study with one of the four Circles as posted in the Weekly Update or contact any member.

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### *ADMINISTRATION*

Property (E) (Chair) — Dave Frederick  
 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

### **2021 Per Capita Apportionment:**

General Assembly:	\$ 8.98
Synod of the Southwest:	5.75
Presbytery of Grand Canyon:	<u>23.78</u>
Total —	<u>\$38.51</u>

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.

FPC Staff emails are listed below. Staff cell phone numbers are listed in the church directory.

- Ann Conklin: [pastor@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmesa.org)
- Mark Ramsey: [choirs@cox.net](mailto:choirs@cox.net)
- 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)

## DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach  
Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding  
Youth Elder – Ben Gerlach

### March Faith Formation Happenings

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.** At Eastertime, FPC participates in “One Great Hour of Sharing” (OGHS). This special offering supports three wonderful Presbyterian efforts:

- Self-Development of People
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Kids are encouraged to pick-up a Fish Bank during worship to decorate and collect coins and dollars for this wonderful ministry. You can also contact Chris or the church office to plan to get a fish bank. The OGHS offering will be collected and dedicated on Easter Sunday!



**Children's Lent Activity Packets.** Lenten activity packets are now available for the kids. Please contact Chris to get one.



Have your kids wind down their day with a bedtime story and a good-night prayer with Chris. Kid friendly evening devotions will be posted throughout Lent on FPC's website and Facebook page.

**Montlure Traveling Day Camp.** FPC Mesa is hosting and partnering with other East Valley Presbyterian congregations to bring Montlure to the Valley June 21-25. TDC is for children completing K-5 grades. Online Registration now open! Register: [Montlure.org](http://Montlure.org)



#### Montlure Overnight Camp Tentative Dates Summer 2021

Senior High: June 6-11

Junior High: June 13-18

Juniors: (grades 4-6) July 5-9

Register at [Montlure.org](http://Montlure.org). Partial camperships available on our church website.

**Spring-Fling Let's "Ketchup" - A Family Picnic.** Do you relish the thought of getting together? Let's "ketchup" at FPC's Spring-Fling on Wednesday, April 14th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join us for outdoor fun while we picnic within our family units in our beautiful courtyard. Come for a hot-diggity-dog time and mustard the urge to join us for picnictastic games and music. Please B.Y.O. picnic, lawn chairs and blankets. Please wear your facemask. To practice physical distancing, please RSVP since space is limited. Click to RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-fling-lets-ketchup-a-family-picnic-tickets-143016691775>







**Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt.** A new twist to our annual tradition of an Egg Hunt that practices physical distancing. Children will rotate within their family unit as they collect Easter eggs in the fashion of a scavenger hunt. Join the hunt in the courtyard on Easter Sunday, April 4th, following worship.

### Weekly Youth Gatherings

Our junior high and high school teens gather most Sundays at 11:15 a.m. in the youth room. For the time being, we will be practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask to keep safe. All food and beverages will be enjoyed outside of youth room.

### Youth Sunday

FPC youth will be leading us in worship the week after Easter on April 11th. Please join us for a rehearsal on Sunday, March 28th, at 11:15 a.m. Pizza will be provided.

**Young Adults at the Movies.** The FPC Mesa Young Adults group is kicking off 2021 with our first meetup of the year! On **Saturday, March 6th**, we are renting out a theater and watching Indiana Jones: The Last Crusade! The movie starts at 3:15 p.m., so please arrive at 3:00 p.m. if you wish to join. It'll be at the AMC at 1645 S. Stapley in Mesa. Ticket price is \$20 since we're renting a whole theater. The event is open to any of the FPC Young Adults between being a high school graduate and 25 years old. Please reach out to Kyle Harding for further questions. [mrcheese113@gmail.com](mailto:mrcheese113@gmail.com)



Blessings,

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 4th during the school day! One more thing, we will take a special trip to the Church Sanctuary at the end of March to learn more about the special things that take place there. It will be a neat experience for the children!

We are gearing up for open registrations for the new school year 2021. 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 2021 school year starting on March 15th 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!

We hope you have a wonderful spring season and may God bless your family.  
Shiloh Murillo, Director

## MISSION

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

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

**One Great Hour of Sharing.** Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (February 17 – April 4), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world (PC USA).



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (February 17 – April 4), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world (PC USA).

**Café Justo** has unfortunately been cancelled for this quarter. If you would still like to purchase some delicious coffee, you can do so at [www.justcoffee.org](http://www.justcoffee.org) and have it delivered straight to your home. Thank you for your understanding.



**Care Portal** is a wonderful ministry connecting children with needs in our community with churches who want to be of help. The children and the needs have already been vetted by a social service worker in the foster care system. Ellen Hickey has offered to be the point person for this new ministry. If you are interested in receiving occasional emails detailing the needs of these kiddos, email Ellen at [hickeyaz@cox.net](mailto:hickeyaz@cox.net) to become part of a group email list. There is no commitment to respond and meet the needs, only to listen to the Holy Spirit and respond as you are prompted. Visit [www.careportal.org](http://www.careportal.org) for more information as well as testimonial videos.

**The Food Pantry** continues each week to provide food bags to the people who come on Fridays. We still need cereals and canned meats (chili, ravioli, Spam, chicken). We have plenty of tuna, pasta and sauce. Thank you for your donations and prayers.

~ Sandy Clark



Thank you to our church family, especially Pastor Ann, for all the prayers, cards, memorials and calls during Sam's illness and death.

Sincerely,  
Helen Thielke and Family

## March Birthdays



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
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Marilyn Uithoven	20th
Caroline Cline	25th
Joshua Anderson	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

Ghubril, Nuha  
2645 E. Southern Ave., #N2426  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-831-3442

### Calendar Notes

#### March

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In person or online

Youth meet at 11:15 a.m.

Youth Room

#### March 2

PW Coordinating Team

#### March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Men's Fellowship

#### March 3 & 17

Women's Bible Study

Fellowship Hall

#### March 8 & 9

Circles meet

In person or Zoom

#### March 21

Session meets

Zoom

#### March 28

Palm Sunday

Monthly Food Drive



*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 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