

La Palabra

March 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David



We begin our Lenten pilgrimage to Easter on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, with a 7 o'clock devotional experience in the sanctuary. I am hopeful that the church family will come together for that service, whether online or in person, because it is indeed a pilgrimage of hope in a time of transition.

Among the lessons I have learned along the way is that the spiritual life is not all about arriving at a destination, but about sharing life in all its fullness with the Lord along the way. To long for the end of times, and miss the value of sharing our time with the Lord, is to deny the greatest miracle of all, that the Lord who will welcome us home is also with us on our homeward journey.

The PC(USA) has provided us with a series of devotionals titled *Making the Road*. Copies of those devotionals will be available in the sanctuary during Lent, but I have another idea. I am willing to email those devotionals daily with my thoughts and a prayer added to those who provide their emails to me for that purpose.

There will be two tablets in the narthex of the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday and on Sunday mornings. I am usually up enjoying my own devotional stillness by 5 o'clock, and would like to share my devotional insights to any and all who may want to share the pilgrimage with me.

We know how the journey to Easter turns out with resurrection joy, but there is much to learn about ourselves when we journey with the Lord with a posture of repentance and hope. I look forward to sharing the journey with you.

David

INDEX

<i>A Message from David</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Mission</i>	6
<i>March Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Address Changes</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	website

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

**"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.
It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits." - Martin Luther**



Worship with us online or on-campus in our Sanctuary! Join us for the Ash Wednesday Service in this special time of worship, prayer, and meditation, as we begin our 40 day journey of lent.

Worship on Sunday, March 27th will be held at 10:00 a.m. in our FPC Courtyard. Join us for this festive worship celebration, featuring Rev. David and the HolyGrounds Praise Band, and following worship, our Fellowship Commission will present our annual barbecue!

Did you miss last Sunday's service? Service information, recordings, and archives of our weekly services are available on the [Service Recordings](#) page of our website.

FPC Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our Patrons. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. We 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), and 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.

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 10th.



"The Joy of the Journey"
[The 75th Anniversary of](#)
[First Presbyterian Church](#)
[Mesa, Arizona](#)

(Click for Reservation Information!)

Coming Events

- 3/2 Ash Wednesday Service, online and on-campus (Sanctuary), 7:00 p.m.
- 3/13 Women's Sunday
- 3/27 Worship in the Courtyard, followed by our annual Barbecue
- 4/9 & Palm Sunday 4/10 - 75th Anniversary Celebrations of FPC
- 4/17 Easter Sunday!

Humoresque

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

At center ice he sits down, noticing that the seat next to him is empty. He leans over and asks his neighbor if someone will be sitting there. "No" says the neighbor. "The seat is empty." "This is incredible," said the man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Stanley Cup and not use it?" The neighbor says, "Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first Stanley Cup we haven't been to together since we got married." "Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that....that's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else, a friend or relative, or even a neighbor to take the seat?" The man shakes his head. "No," he says. "They're all at the funeral." [from Marj Burgan]



Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus: " ..Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah."

Lesson seven will be the focus of our Bible Study in Circle meetings. We welcome our church members and friends to join us. Circle meetings will be in March 8th in the parlor at 9:30; in the library at 1:00; and on March 14th in the parlor at 4:00.

Preparations continue for Celebration of Women Sunday on March 13th. We will also be announcing the recipient of the PW Honorary Life Membership Award for outstanding service on that date. Please come celebrate Gods glory with us on this day.



DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children’s Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko
 Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding

March Faith Formation Happenings



Wednesday WRAP: Our next Follow Me series topic is on “Practices of Spiritual Disciplines,” which we will explore throughout Lent. The publisher describes this next series as “Spiritual disciplines are usually thought of as those things that help us draw near to God and might include different forms of prayer, meditation, study, and service. Spiritual practices are seen as those things Jesus did, said, or embodied; we as Jesus’ followers try to do so as well.” Please consider joining us for dinner, fellowship, worship and explore the spiritual disciplines Jesus set in motion.

We are not meeting on March 9 because of Spring Break.

DATE	TOPICS
March 16, 2022	Fast
March 23, 2022	Pray
March 30, 2022	Listen to God
March 6, 2022	Embrace Simplicity & Unplug

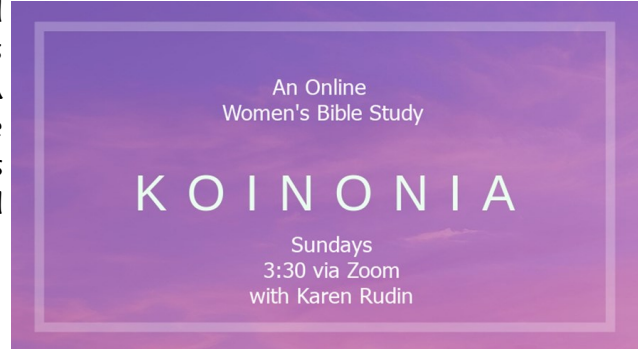
Weekly Youth Gatherings: Our junior high and high school teens gather most Sundays at 11:20 a.m. in the youth room. Our Sunday Youth Gathering is a time to check in with new and old friends, God talk and prayer. Join us for our youth Sunday movie on March 6!





The Men's Fellowship group is meeting at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Please contact Paul Soderquist to obtain the Zoom invitation at pfsod77@gmail.com.

The Koinonia Class, lead by Karen Rudin, is studying an inspiring new series based on W. Phillip Keller's classic book, "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23." There will be a free study guide that goes with the book. Koinonia meets Sunday afternoons at 3:30-5:00 on Zoom. If interested in joining, please contact Karen @ 480-233-1043.



Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation
chris@fpcmesa.org



Spring has Sprung at the Preschool, and we are starting to plant new flowers and vegetables in our little garden! The children love to water them daily and really enjoy checking on them to see how much has changed. This month we will be talking about insects, bugs, pond life, gardening and children around the world. We will also be closed for our Spring Break holiday from March 7-11. I wonder what the garden will look like when we return?!

Also, we have just opened up the Early Registration for the 2022/2023 school year. Can you believe it's that time of year already? Please send your neighbors, grandchildren, friends and family over to get them started and take advantage of the early bird registration discount. Our early registration fee is \$75 and will be good through the end of March, but don't wait too long, because the price goes up to \$85 on April 1st!

Happy Spring everyone!
Shiloh Murillo
Director

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

One Great Hour of Sharing – One Great Hour of Sharing is during the season of Lent. This season of giving starts March 2nd and runs through Easter, April 17th. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, educa-



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

tion, opportunity. 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 6th. 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 orders for March can be done via the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall through March 13th and then the order will be placed. Don't miss your chance to order this delicious coffee. Next orders will not be until June.

Mission Update – Unfortunately we need to postpone our trip to the Navajo Nation again this year. We will still do something in lieu of this Mission Trip so keep an eye out for upcoming information.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Personnel (D) — Carol Anderson
Nominating (E) — Marcy Snitzer

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

2022 Per Capita Apportionment:

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

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

Bever, Cortney & Talon 250 N. Center St. Mesa, AZ 85201	Martz, Shirley 8803 E. Indigo St. Mesa, AZ 85207 480-708-0793
Hodgson, David & Deann 233 E. Angela Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85022 David's cell: 602-538- 9775	

Calendar Notes

March

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.

March

Men's Fellowship every Wednesday
ZOOM

March 2

WRAP

Ash Wednesday Service — 7:00 p.m.

March 2 & 16

Women's Bible Study

March 6

Deacons meet

March 8 & 14

Circles meet

March 13

Women's Sunday

March 27

Monthly Food Drive
Worship in the Courtyard
BBQ following worship

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

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E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

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**