

# La Palabra

April 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

### Responding to Resurrection

We are about mid-way through our Lenten journey. Soon we will journey with Jesus to the cross. We will remember the anguish of our Lord. We will recall his betrayal, arrest, torture, terror, and death on a Roman cross. We will hear the taunts of the crowd and remember his loneliness in the garden. Jesus wanted the cup to pass from him, if that was God's will; yet God brought forth an overflowing cup of goodness and grace in the resurrection of our Lord.

Resurrection means new life – a new lease on life! It means a second (or third or fourth!) chance! A clean slate! A new beginning! A fresh start!

God is so very good and loves us with an unending, undying love that is truly beyond measure. God wants us to fully flourish as God's own ~ showing forth God love and shining brightly with the light of Christ. We are faithful when we seek growth and transformation. We are faithful when we rejoice in God and in God's good creation! Indeed, a fitting and faithful response to resurrection is to REJOICE!

This poem by Anne Sexton sums it up simply and beautifully:

### **Welcome Morning** *by Anne Sexton*

There is joy in it all:

in all the hair I brush each morning  
in the Cannon towel, newly washed,  
that I dry my body with each morning,  
in the chapel of eggs I cook each morning,  
in the outcry from the kettle that heats my coffee each morning,  
in the spoon and the chair that cry "hello there, Anne" each morning,  
in the godhead of the table that I set my silver, plate, cup upon each morning.

All this is God

right here in my pea-green house each morning,  
and I mean, though I often forget, to give thanks,  
to faint down by the kitchen table in a prayer of rejoicing  
as the holy birds at the kitchen window peck into their  
marriage of seeds.

So while I think of it,

Let me paint a thank you on my palm for this God,  
this laughter of the morning, lest it go unspoken.

Joy that isn't shared, I've heard, dies young.

~ Ann

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## WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey  
Worship (E) — Nate Robinson  
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen  
Worship (D) — Gail Soderquist

### 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



The Pure Praise Singers will have a busy April. They will sing several songs at Karen Rudin's Starshine School of Music Concert on Sunday, April 7th. All are invited to the concert, which will begin at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary and will also include Karen's school music students. Then, on April 28th, Youth Sunday, they will sing one song during morning worship, and that afternoon, they'll present the musical "Colby's Missing Memory" by Peter & Hanneke Jacobs. The musical will be complete with choreography and costumes. It's the Live, full-stage production with lots of laughs, songs, and Bible truths. The program will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18th, we'll gather in the Sanctuary for a Lenten observance of Holy Communion. The "Vigil of the Final Hours" will begin at 7:00 p.m., and the Sanctuary Choir will lead the music, which will include *Gethsemane*, from Jesus Christ Superstar, sung by Tenor Dr. Glenn Bennett!

Happy Easter! On Easter Sunday, April 21st, our Traditional Easter Worship Celebration will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and will include our Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, First Ringers, and Hearts Hands and Voices. The Easter Celebration will continue at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with the High-Energy HolyGrounds Coffee House Easter Service featuring Mercy Me's "Best News Ever." Our Boy Scout Unit 257 will prepare for us a pancake breakfast to be served between services, and a freewill offering will be received.

### Humoresque

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

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..." The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned..." [from Norma Anweiler]

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary, please sign up today at the table during coffee time or pick 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 Monday, April 15th.

### Coming Events

- 4/14 Worship & BBQ in FPC Courtyard, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/28 (Sunday) Pure Praise Singers Musical: Colby's Missing Memory, 4:00 p.m.
- 5/5 (Sunday) FPC Salsa Challenge

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## DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. —  
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach  
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) —



Spring has sprung at the preschool, and it has been fun to watch the children grow like little flowers and discover the potential that God has in store for them! Last month, we planted seeds and flowers in our little garden boxes. The children helped and really enjoyed getting their hands dirty!

This month we are learning about Easter, Bible stories, bears, pets and Children from Around the World. Easter will be a fun time when the children enjoy a little Easter egg hunt around the playground yard on April 18th. Please let us know if you can join us!

Registration is underway for the 2019-2020 school year. We welcome anyone who would like to tour our school to stop by for a visit. The registration fee is \$75 until April 30th when it will go up to \$85. You won't want to miss out on our early-bird registration rate. When you register early, you will receive a free T-Shirt! Please consider sharing our preschool information with friends and families who have preschool-aged children that are potty-trained. Thank you!

As we look ahead to the end of the school year, please mark your calendar for May 9th at 10:30 a.m. We will be hosting the community and preschool families as the children sing songs for their parents at our annual Spring Fling. We will then have a picnic on our playground for all to enjoy. We hope you can make it!

Preschool wish list: Candy to fill the Easter eggs, large bottle of bubbles, 3oz dixie cups, paper towels, and old newspaper.

Blessings to you too!  
Shiloh Murillo, Director



Thank you all so very much for your kind expressions of sympathy for my Mother's death. I appreciate your cards, support, and prayers very much and feel blessed to be a part of the FPC Mesa faith family!

Love, Ann.

# MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin  
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam

Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak  
Marketing (E) —

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Shelley Cronenberg  
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

## MISSION TRIP REPORT

Stories, stories, stories! Heart wrenching stories, stories of hope, stories of how God is working in the many ministries of Frontera de Cristo. What exactly was the Mission Delegation “doing” in Aqua Prieta on their mission trip?

We listened to stories. We were building relationships. We were present – a ministry of presence that communicated louder than words that we care and that we hear our border brothers and sisters as they tell their stories. Beyond the stories, we shared experiences with members of Lirios de Valles Presbyterian Church. Our youth and their youth made an early and lasting connection.

We sang together, played together at the sports complex and made tamales together in the home of Ana who faithfully made us delicious breakfasts most days. We were blessed to have Joca Gallegos as coordinator of the delegations that are visiting Frontera de Cristo for our daily activities and translator extraordinaire!

Carmina Gasteleum Sanchez shared how she and her husband, Oscar, migrated to the border as teenagers, Oscar from a small farming community ten hours south of Aqua Prieta and Carmina from the state of Chiapas. Carmina told her story of trying to live in Aqua Prieta with their two children on the wages with Carlos working as a factory worker and her working at Café Justo. She shared the pain of her heart when she told us of the difficult decision of Oscar to go to the U.S. on a work visa so he could provide for the family. Being apart is very difficult for them.

On Sunday evening, we visited CAME, a hospitality center for migrants, staffed by volunteers. “It was founded in 2002 as a collaborate project of the parish of La Sagrada Familia church, the Archdiocese of Hermosillo, and Catholic Relief Services to address the needs of the vulnerable and the poor who cross the border to seek a better life in the U.S. or who are being deported back to Mexico. Many families arrive after spending several days in the Sonora Desert without food, water, a place to stay, or other resources. Recently, CAME has been providing support for persons from Central America who want to present for asylum at the US Port of Entry.” Our delegation shared a dinner at the center and heard stories of those who were there. One particularly poignant story touched us as Miguel and Susanna and their one and half year-old son told of fleeing from Honduras in fear of their lives. Susanna cried at the loss of her ten year-old son who stayed with her mother and how she can no longer have contact with them for fear of endangering them. Miguel had been a policeman and she had worked in security. They had applied and were denied asylum seven times.

Mark Adams, our mission co-worker took us on a tour of the border wall challenging us to think about how Jesus would see the wall. He shared the story of the history of the border and the wall.

An impactful experience was on Tuesday when we were divided into two “families” so we could see what eating on a maquila, factory worker, wages is like. Family A was made up of 5 people, 2 working in a Maquila, 3 students. In fact, a factory worker as a machine operator, makes the equivalent of \$40.11 a week, \$5.73 a day, \$1.91 per meal to feed that family of 5. Family B also had 5 persons, 3 working in Maquila, 2 students. A maintenance worker makes the equivalent of \$58.82 per week, \$8.40 a day and \$2.80 per meal. After paying bills and setting aside money for other necessities, we had to figure out what was left so we could go shopping in our families for our three meals the next day. One family had more money than the other. We have



our own stories about that experience.

After our shopping expedition, we went to the home of Familia Cifuentes for dinner and conversation. We were impressed with the humble surroundings in a very small space and yet Lidia graciously served a meal of rice and beans and calabacitas. This lovely twenty-three-year-old woman not only provided dinner but looked after her three children as we ate and talked and shared of her passion for serving those who have less through a mercy ministry she and her friend Lili Llamas started. Both women are members of Lirio de Valles. She shared stories of her experiences with us.

A rainy, soggy, cold Tuesday morning found us visiting CREDDA, a drug-rehab Center of “addicts helping addicts.” Laura, a recovered addict herself, is director of the center. She shared her story of beginning CREDDA with her husband who has since passed away. Javier, also a recovering addict translated for us and together they shared about the center, about some of the issues they are having and about the improvements they are planning. We had a tour of the facility. The cramped housing setting and the whole situation was hard for us to wrap our heads around. And yet recovery was there despite the conditions. The whole experience was unsettling for some of our delegation.

CREDDA has been partnered with Aqua Para La Vida Ministry, Water for Life, since 2004. Our van was driven by the street pastor, Rosendo Sichler Rubio. The plan was to follow the truck that had members of the Rehab Center along the migrant trail to put fresh water in the desert for those who are crossing the border.

We did indeed drive the road until the truck was stuck and then the van got stuck. Younger members of our group along with the folks from CREDDA worked together to get unstuck. The mud was of the caliche variety, nearly impossible to navigate in. First, they got the truck unstuck. The van proved to be entirely different matter. The truck left us and went to get ropes to pull us out. We ate our Maquila lunches as we waited. The youth especially enjoyed the slipping and sliding and even digging out of the mud! Ultimately it took about six hours with five more times of getting stuck, another retreat to get a chain after the rope kept breaking, before we made it out. By the time we got back most of the delegation members wanted showers and something hot to drink. Only three of us barely made it to the prayer vigil in Douglas.



Identificado” because they were unable to identify them.

On Wednesday morning the manager of the Café Justo shared the story of the ministry of the coffee shop part of the business. Some of the people who work there come from CREDDA. The coffee shop hosts regular Bible studies including our own. Later we went to Dougla Prieta Trabaja Women’s ministry for lunch and to hear the stories told by Trini and by RosaLinda. Trini shared her experiences of becoming part of the cooperative while RosaLinda shared about the beginnings of the women’s ministry. We also had great fun learning how to make first corn tortillas, then flour. The lunch was delicious! After lunch we heard the story of the beginning of the Café Justo Cooperative told by Daniel Cifuentes who was a founder and dreamer of the coop. Afterwards, we were given a tour of the roasting part of the facility. Ahhh...the smell of fresh roasted coffee!

Thursday morning, we got to help out and interact with the youth at the Children’s Enrichment Center. The center is a ministry to help keep children away from drugs. The children are at particularly high risk for drug involvement. School in Aqua Prieta is half day with morning and afternoon sessions. The children come



to the center in the half day that they aren't in school. Our youth played with the children outside. The rest of our delegation either helped outside or read and drew or painted. We had lunch with the staff in between the two sessions. After lunch we had the opportunity to explore a local mall. Following shopping, the group split with the younger contingency going to Ada's house with the youth of Lirios de Valles to make tamales (more stories there). The rest went back to CREDDA for an uplifting time of encouragement through music, prayer and video. We finished the day with Mark and Miriam in their home where we shared a delicious meal and our gratitude about our day/time during the week.



On Friday, we wrapped up our visit with Biblical reflections, like we had done every day, with checking in about our week and with a discussion about what comes next after returning home. There was so much to digest, to reflect on and to ponder that very question. We are so grateful for Frontera de Cristo and their many ministries, for the work they do and for the support of FPC Mesa and all of their prayers. On Sunday, March 24th, the delegation shared their experiences during both services. They will share more at the PW luncheon on May 11th. Please invite and engage in conversation with members of the delegation. This is just an overview of the many stories we heard and the many we have to tell so ask us! Thank you, God for this opportunity to build relationships and gain understanding of the realities of our brothers and sisters at the border!

## FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler  
 Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick  
 Transportation (D) — Steve Muth  
 Older Adult (E) — David Jurgensen

Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey  
 Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters  
 Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Harding

Fellowship Deacon — Katie Masterson  
 Fellowship Deacon — Carol Strouse  
 Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman  
 Youth Elder — Ian Harding

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!

- April 14th — Worship in the Courtyard at 10:00 a.m., with a BBQ to follow
- May 5th — Salsa challenge
- August (date TBD) — Ice cream social
- September 13th — Diamondbacks Faith & Family Night



**Congratulations to Sue Eisenklam**, our Honorary Life Membership recipient. Thank you, Sue, for all you do for Presbyterian Women, FPC and missions. Women's Sunday was a success again because of the work, time and heart that the women of FPC always put into it. It was a blessing and a pleasure to have Pastor Amy Poling Sutherland, the author of our Bible Study, in the pulpit. A special thank you to Barbara Walker, Bea Towe, The Women's Choir, Karen Rudin and Heavenly Harmonies. It wouldn't be the same without your music and your voices.

**Spring Luncheon, Saturday, May 11th:** Good food and fellowship. More information to come.

## April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Dan Sitzler	6th
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
Nina Jo Woods	11th
Allan Schultz	12th
Jo Wilson	12th
Amy Woods	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Diane Byerly	15th
Kelly Clark	15th
Hal Engman	15th
Robert Harding	15th
Ron Payton	15th
Deborah Rosen	16th
Dave Weaver	16th
David Frederick	19th
Mary Martin	19th
Don Wilson	19th
Chelsea Cronenberg	29th

**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.

## Calendar Notes

### April 1

Deacons meet

### April 7

The Pilgrim's Progress Movie Night

### April 8 & 9

Circles meet

### April 14

Palm Sunday

Worship in FPC Courtyard w/BBQ to follow

### April 18

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00

### April 19

Good Friday — Office Closed

### April 21

Easter Sunday

Services at 9:00 & 11:00

Pancake Breakfast between services

### April 24

WRAP Closing Banquet

### April 28

Monthly Food Drive

Youth Sunday

Commission & Session meet

Colby's Missing Memory Musical



**Movie Night!** Next to the Bible, what religious text -- in Western civilization -- is most read? Give up? The Answer: **The Pilgrim's Progress**, was written by John Bunyan, an English writer, and Puritan preacher best remembered as the author of the Christian allegory. On Sunday, April 7th, at 5:30 p.m. FPC will be hosting a special movie showing of this newly realized adaptation of the book. We want to invite family, friends, former members and pretty much as many people as we can possibly get to come. The movie opens in theatres the following weekend and we get the opportunity to see it before the general populace...how cool is that!? A love offering will be taken at the end of the presentation. You can view the trailer for the movie at the following internet address:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=04WXIAcOt50](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04WXIAcOt50).

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

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

**LA PALABRA**

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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**  
**Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications**  
**Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director**  
**Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor**  
**Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper**  
**James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**  
**Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus**