

La Palabra

April 2021

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (~Jesus as spoken in John 11:25-26)

This is the question for us all, asked of us by Jesus himself: Do you believe this? Do you believe that I am the resurrection and the life?

Friends, Resurrection Day is coming! For those of us who do believe, it is a day of great hope! It is a day to remember God’s promise of new life and hope in eternal life. As followers of Jesus, as Christ’s disciples, how we live in the here and now is of the utmost importance. We are called to reflect the Light and Love of Jesus Christ our Lord. We are called to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. We are called to welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, visit those in prison, and care for the sick among us. We are called to proclaim in word and in action the good news of the gospel.

This is a high and holy calling and it is only by the grace of God that we are able to live into this call upon our lives. It is only by being part of a faith community, where we are continually strengthened and nurtured in our faith as we come together regularly for worship and study, that we are able to carry this out and participate in Christ’s ongoing mission on earth. As the Church, the gathered body of Christ, we are to be a sign in and for the world of the coming kingdom of God!

Here is what our Book of Order says about Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church:

The Authority of Christ

Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, has given to him all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body. The Church’s life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ’s ongoing life and work. (F-1.0201)

Christ Calls and Equips the Church

Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world, for its sanctification, and for its service to God. Christ is present with the Church in both Spirit and Word. Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills. (F-1.0202)

Please join with us for worship during this Holy Week as we gather on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and on Easter morning at 10:00 a.m. Together we will bear witness to the great love God has for all the world made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to God! ~ 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

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness. This exceptionally moving work will be a beautiful part of our worship through Holy Week. We will worship on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, and the service will include portions of Hal Hopson's beautiful service of darkness. The work is based upon a tradition of the early church dating back to the eighth century and commemorates the final hours of Christ's life on earth as He prepared for and suffered death on the cross.

JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP AT FPC! [Easter Celebration Worship Service](#)

FPC Parking Lot
April 4th (Sunday), 10:00 a.m.
(Hats and sunscreen optional! Chairs provided.)

Three ways to participate:
Listen via radios in our vehicles,
Sit outside, to the left of your vehicle or in a designated area down front, and
Online, via our YouTube livestream.

*Jesus Christ is ris'n today,
Our triumphant holy day! Alleluia!*



Join Dr. Glenn Bennett and me for a worship-concert during morning worship on Sunday, April 25th. Music 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. We'll be joined by violinist Elizabeth Wong, who will also share with us her extraordinary solo talents. Join us as together we worship and celebrate the beautiful blessings of God's majestic music!

Coming Events

- 4/5 FPC Office Reopening with Limited Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 5/4 Karen Rudin Music Studio Recital, Sanctuary, 6:00 p.m.
- 5/7 National Day of Prayer
- 5/9 Happy Mother's Day!
- 5/23 Pentecost Sunday: Ordination and Installation of Officers

Humoresque

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

On the first day of Spring Training, a baseball scout brings a race horse with him to add to the starting line-up. The coach asks, "What did you bring that horse here for?" The scout replies, "Wait until you see him bat." All the players are laughing, until the horse comes to bat. At this point, the horse grabs the bat, and everyone quiets down. They stare at the horse. The pitcher just shrugs his shoulders and throws the ball toward home plate. Astonishingly, the horse hits the ball deep in the outfield. The horse just stands there and does not move. The manager then yells at the baseball scout to tell the horse to run to first base. The scout looks back at the manager and yells, "If he could run, he'd be at Belmont!"



We have so very much to be thankful for this Easter time. With Women's Sunday behind us, we thank God for all the women of the church and PW who participated in the service that day. Each and every woman involved put a bit of themselves into the preparations and presentations. We thank our musical women: Dr. Bonnie Loney (organist), Karen Rudin (director), Virtual Women's Ensemble: Ellen Gillespie, Jan Peterson Anita Ramsey, Karen Rudin, and Barbara Walker. We thank our liturgist and ushers: Renita Jurgensen, Sue Eisenklam and Carol Anderson. We thank our writers and presenters: Jo Throckmorton, Helen Thielke, Suzi Payton, Caroline Cline, Sheila Dye, Jean Chappell, Donna Gordon, Susan McMichael, Marilyn Uithoven, and Gloria Hoskins. We offer special thanks to Pastor Ann Conklin and Mark Ramsey for their guidance and support. Please forgive me if I have missed anyone and know you are appreciated. We thank our congregation for their time to watch, listen and receive the message about ordinary, down-trodden women rising up and making a difference in our world and our lives.

PW is pleased to recognize Carol Anderson by awarding her with the 2021 Honorary Life Membership of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church, USA. She received a certificate and a pin representative of the PW purpose. A contribution has been made in Carol's honor to help support the training of women for future leadership in the church and her name is added to the rolls of these incredibly, special women.

On March 20th, the PWP Grand Canyon hosted a Zoom Spring Gathering with several of our members attending. The business meeting was followed by an address from our PW Churchwide Moderator, Jyungin Lee, and worship service with communion.

Our March Bible study had us lamenting the state of our planet Earth and left us hoping and praying for God to guide us in the healing of humanity and our environment. In April, the eighth lesson of the study focuses on God's laments. Here I quote from P. Lynn Miller, the author: "Many of the laments in the Bible are addressed to God because God is the one with the power to change things. God's laments are different because we are the cause of God's lament." We bring grief & sadness to our Heavenly Father, He laments; we confess and repent. Trust in God; never forget.." Romans 8:38-39.

In the March La Palabra I shared the PW Purpose. This month I extend an invitation. If a group of two or more women would like to gather for a monthly Bible study, fellowship, and/or meal — forming a new circle, PW can help by providing exceptional and stimulating Bible studies and support. You may contact me by texting 480-844-8174.

Sara McWhorter
PW Moderator

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

April Faith Formation Happenings



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.

Please return your fish banks on Easter Sunday, April 4th, as we dedicate the money you have collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.



Family Picnic -RSVP Today for Space is Limited!

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. (A Family Picnic) 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 picnicastic games and music. Please B.Y.O. dinner, lawn chairs and blankets. Please wear your facemask. Space is limited so please RSVP via the Eventbrite link below. Click to RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-fling-lets-ketchup-a-family-picnic-tickets-143016691775>

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, 2021**. TDC is for children completing K-5th grades: Online Registration now open! Register: Montlure.org

Partial camperships **up to \$50.00** for church members are available on our church website. That is only \$25 for an entire week of camp! What a deal! Please signup today!



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. Members can apply for partial camperships of at least \$350 on our church website. Please contact Chris for further details!



Youth Sunday. FPC youth will be leading us in worship the week after Easter on April 11 at 10:00 a.m. We are inviting Junior High and Senior youth to join us to be liturgists and participate in a skit.

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 Group Miniature Golf. Join us for an afternoon of miniature golf at Golfland Sunsplash on **Sunday, April 25th, at 11:15 a.m.** Permission forms are now available through Chris or on the website.



Blessings,
Chris McKee, Minister of Faith Formation
chris@fpcmesa.org



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, Family 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 2nd.

Registration is underway for the 2021-2022 school year, which is our 35th Anniversary! We welcome anyone who would like to tour our school and stop by for a visit. The registration fee is \$75 until April 30th but then 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 age children that are potty-trained. Thank you!

As we look ahead to the end of the school year, please mark your calendar for May 6th at 10:30 a.m. We will be hosting the 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: Large bottle of bubbles, 3oz dixie cups, paper towels, and old newspaper (lots!).

Blessings to you too!

Shiloh Muillo,
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



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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)



2021 Mission Save The Date. We have exciting Mission Trip 2021 News! Mission Commission has decided on a different kind of Mission Trip this year. It is one that we can all be involved in. In lieu of a traditional mission trip, we decided this year to partner up with the Care Portal ministry. While the Care Portal will be an ongoing mission for those who signed up to receive the alerts from Ellen Hickey, we will do a Care Portal Mission Week starting July 7th and going through July 11th.

For those of you not familiar with Care Portal, it is a website where case workers with child serving agencies who encounter needs of children in crisis can enter vetted needs into Care Portal. We, as a church, can see if we can help families with as many needs as we can. Each family may need something different (beds, car seats, diapers, child safety locks and baby proofing items are among the most common requests). There are many ways that we can all help out.

We will need people who can help purchase these items as well as people who can help deliver these items. We will be collecting items starting now and then during the mission week, we will gather and deliver items that have been contributed. Please watch for a commitment mailing. We will ask if you can commit items, donate money, and/or help deliver items. Additional details are still to be determined, but in order to make this as successful as possible, we would love everyone to be involved in some way. For now, please prayerfully consider how you want to support this mission, save the date, and watch out for more news and details in the weeks and months to come.

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



April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Roma Naccarato	4th
Dan Sitzler	6th
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Donna Gordon	9th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
Allan Schultz	12th
Jo Wilson	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Andy Chesko	15th
Kelly Clark	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.

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

Ann Conklin: pastor@fpcmesa.org
Mark Ramsey: choirs@cox.net
Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Don Krill: buildings@fpcmesa.org

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Chubril, Nuha
2635 E. Southern Ave., #N2426
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-831-3242

Calendar Notes

April

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
In person or online

Youth meet at 11:15 a.m.
Youth Room

April 1

Maundy Thursday Service
Sanctuary and online

April 4

Easter Sunday
Drive-in or online

April 6

PW Coordinating Team

April 7, 14, 21, 28

Men's Fellowship

April 7 & 21

Women's Bible Study
Fellowship Hall

April 10

New Officer Training

April 11

Youth Sunday

April 12 & 13

Circles meet
In person or Zoom

April 14

Spring Fling Family Picnic

April 18

Session meets
Zoom

April 25

Monthly Food Drive
Glenn Bennett-Mark Ramsey Concert

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

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Website: 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