

La Palabra

April 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Journeying Joyfully

When Jesus' followers lined the road to welcome him to the Holy City, they used palm branches to celebrate his coming. Little did they know then that they were starting a tradition that would continue for twenty-one hundred years and no doubt will continue until the end of time.

We wave them too, to celebrate his influence upon us as a church for the last seventy-five years, and with added significance because it was on Palm Sunday that our church was born, and on Palm Sunday we will celebrate *The Joy of the Journey*.



I like the image of Jesus entering Jerusalem as he did, on a donkey the way kings used to ride to their place of coronation back in the days when God appointed the kings of Israel. And I like it because it is also an image of how the Spirit of the Risen Lord moves through history, acknowledging the gratitude and praise that each passing century raises.

I'm sure he knew most of those who came to celebrate his triumphal ride: the boy whose lunch fed the multitude, the lepers cleansed and still rejoicing, the blind man who witnessed that historical moment with new vision, the sinners forgiven, the lame who walked, and so many more.

In the same manner, we turn out to praise him and to cheer him on because of the way his Triumphant Spirit moves among us, and touches our lives with encouragement, inspiration, guidance, healing, and forgiveness. And we journey on joyfully because he keeps pace with us in all the settings and seasons of life!

I thank God for the joy that is so much a part of this incredible family of faith, and the privilege of journeying with you in this season of transition.

With every blessing,
David

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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
Worship (D) – Sheilah Dye

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

“Everything must be possible.” - J. S. Bach

75th Anniversary: The Joy of the Journey!

Join us for “The Joy of the Journey,” the 75th Anniversary Celebration of First Presbyterian Church, Mesa, Arizona. The Celebration will be held on Palm Sunday weekend, Saturday, April 9th and Sunday, April 10th. On Saturday at 5:30 p.m., we'll gather in Fellowship Hall for Food & Fellowship, then we'll move to the Sanctuary for our program at 7:00! The program will feature special guests, including our city mayor, Presbytery representatives, and young and old children of our church. We'll be blessed by musical offerings from a String Quartet, Voice, and Organ, including Alice & Norm Peterson's granddaughters, Violinist Lorelei Barker & Cellist Kirsten Alexander, and Bass-Baritone Tom Sitzler, who will sing Alleluia! by Ferdinand Hummel and The Lord Is My Light by Frances Allitsen. We'll also showcase our magnificent Visser-Rowland Pipe Organ in a variety of music, including Carillon by Louis Vierne. The special music will bookend our celebrations of FPC history, leadership, family, and mission. On Sunday, we'll gather for a Worship Celebration Service centered upon Palm Sunday and the beautiful ministries of First Presbyterian Church, Mesa. We'll share in music from Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, the Sanctuary Choir, Tom Sitzler, and Dr. Glenn Bennett. Following Worship, we will conclude the weekend with a Reception in Fellowship Hall! Tickets for the Saturday Event are \$20 for those 13 and over, \$5 for ages 5 through 12, with a \$60 maximum per household. There is no cost for ages 4 and under. If you have moved away from the area or will be otherwise unable to join us on campus for the Celebrations, please login to our [livestream](#). We would love to have you with us! Watch for celebration updates during our Sunday Worship Services, and be sure to [RSVP ASAP!!](#)

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness - This exceptionally moving work will be a beautiful part of our worship through Holy Week. We will gather in our Sanctuary on Maundy Thursday, April 14th, at 7:00 p.m. Dating from the 8th century, *Tenebrae* was originally celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week, symbolizing the darkness that fell over the earth as the Son of God was crucified. The Dale Wood Service of Darkness includes seven choral meditations on the Last Words of Christ, adapted from that ancient *Tenebrae* and commemorating the final hours of Christ's life on earth as He prepared for and suffered death on the cross.

Our Easter Celebration will be held on Sunday, April 17th, at 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary. The worship service will include our Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, Hearts Hands and Voices, and Praise Band, featuring Mercy Me's "Best News Ever" and a powerful signing of "God So Loved the World." Join us on Easter Sunday as we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Eternal King!

Coming Events

- 4/9 & Palm Sunday 4/10 - 75th Anniversary Celebrations of FPC
- 4/17 Easter Sunday
- 5/8 Mother's Day
- 5/29 Memorial Day Weekend
- 6/5 Pentecost Sunday

Humoresque

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

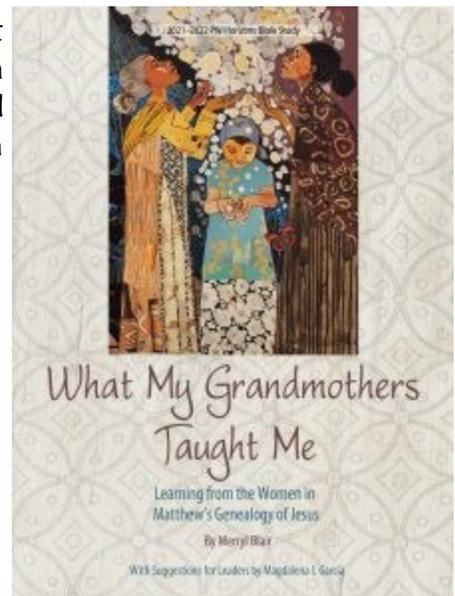
A man finds a donkey wandering down the street and takes it to the police station. The policeman says, "Why don't you just take it to the petting farm?" The next day, the policeman sees the man walking down the street with the donkey. "I thought I told you to take that donkey to the farm," the policeman says. "I did," the man replies. "Yesterday, I took him to the petting farm, and today he wants to go to a movie!"



Sincerest thanks to all who were involved with Celebration of Women Sunday in March. With God's great guidance and helping hands from so many, we experienced a special, memorable day. This year, Brent Gregory was awarded PW's Honorary Life Membership status for his overwhelming contributions to the life of our church. Additional pocket quilts handed out at the close of service are available in the church office.

April's Bible study will be Lesson 8 from Meryl Blair's "What My Grandmothers Taught Me." We will explore Mary in the faith and tradition of the church, based on Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-52 and John 2:5; 19:25-27. Please feel free to join any of the Circles on the second Monday or Tuesday to learn more.

Sara McWhorter, PW Moderator



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

April 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 on Palm Sunday to decorate and collect coins and dollars for this wonderful ministry. We are requesting the Fish Banks be returned on Easter Sunday to be dedicated. You can also contact Chris or the church office to get a fish bank.



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



Easter Egg Hunt! Children up to 6th grade are invited to FPC's Annual Egg Hunt. The Hunt is scheduled for Easter morning, April 17, following worship. Join us in the courtyard where the children will be organized by age group. Children will get a colorful plastic bag to gather their Easter treats.

Wednesday WRAP. Consider joining us for Wednesday WRAP at 5:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy an evening of Christian Fellowship, dinner, worship and God talk. In April we have two more WRAP gatherings before our summer break: **April 6** and our closing BBQ on **April 20**. There is no WRAP on April 13 because of Holy Week.



Montlure Overnight Summer Camp

Senior High: June 19-24

Junior High: June 26-July 1

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

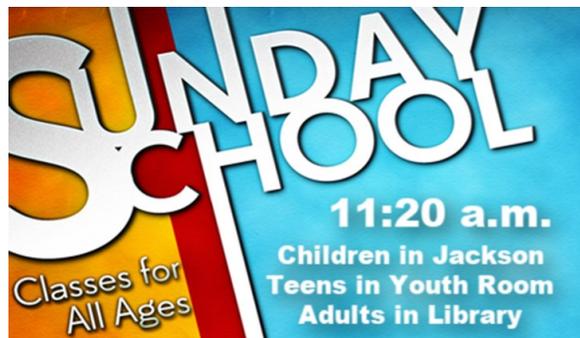
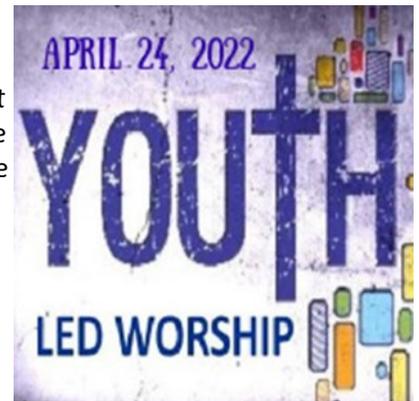
Register at Montlure.org. Partial camperships available on our church website.

Montlure Traveling Day Camp (TDC)

Mission del Sol in Tempe is hosting TDC this summer, **June 20-24**. FPC is partnering with them along with other East Valley Presbyterian churches. TDC is for children completing K-5 grades. Online Registration now open! Register: Montlure.org

Youth Sunday

FPC youth will be leading us in worship the week after Easter on April 24 at 10:00 a.m. We are inviting Junior High and Senior youth to join us to be liturgists and participate in a skit. Please sign-up your youth to participate with Chris at chris@fpcmesa.org.



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

Spring is in full bloom at the preschool! The children are enjoying planting lima beans and chia seeds. They are also growing like sprouts themselves! This month we will be focusing on All about Bears, Family Pets, Bible stories and Easter. We will be getting ready for our Spring Fling and family picnic on May 5th. We hope you will join us!

In March the preschool received the results from the Parent Satisfaction Survey, and we are so blessed by the overwhelming response! We are including those results for you here: [Preschool Parent Survey Results](#). Please send a shout out to the Preschool Teachers and Staff if you have the chance to show them that you appreciate their hard work. Please send your responses to preschool@fpcmesa.org



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

Mission Update: Unfortunately due to the severity of Covid in the Navajo nation and the uncertainty of possible upcoming restrictions, we will be doing a CarePortal Mission Trip again this year in lieu of a trip to Tseyi Bidaa like we have in the past. Please save the following dates:

- CarePortal Mission Trip Intro Meeting: Sunday, June 5th, at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall
- Mission Trip Dates: Thursday, June 9th – Sunday, June 12th
- Wrap Up Event: Sunday, June 12th, at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall

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, and there will also be a prayer team. We will be collecting items starting on Thursday, June 9th, and throughout the rest of the days, we will gather and deliver items that have been contributed. Additional details are coming soon, 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.



Clothing Closet Success Story: Being a part of the clothes closet has been full of fun adventures and interesting moments. There is one story in particular I had thought was definitely worth sharing. I had a client with a men's pair of shoes to donate, I had forgotten to grab them for a couple of weeks, but on this specific day I had remembered to grab them! Subsequently, I brought them with me to the clothes closet to pass along that following Friday morning. After being open a short time, I mentioned I had a pair of nice-looking men's size 13 shoes in my car that I should go get. Amazingly enough, just as I mentioned this, a gentleman looking in the closet exclaimed, "I wear size 13 and have just gotten a pair of dress pants! If they look pretty nice, I could really use them to go with my dress pants." Sure enough they worked for him and turned out to be just what he needed.

A great example of moving parts working together to make this mission a success. Crazy but true, a moment fulfilling and rewarding that has happened the short time the clothing closet has been operating. :)

Submitted by Renita Jurgensen on behalf of the Clothing Closet

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, education, 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)



We would like to thank you for all the prayers and cards for Janet Smith. There aren't enough words to express the love and compassion. She was a gentle soul that loved everyone who has been in contact with her. We will miss her positive attitude, her love and smile. Again, thank you!

Kent Smith and Karin Lusk-Rydin

April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Lois Oelschlager	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
Bonnie Seehorn	30th

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.

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

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

White, Joan
2635 E. Southern Avenue, N1411
Tempe, AZ 85282

Calendar Notes

April

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.

April

Men's Fellowship every Wednesday via ZOOM

April 3

Deacons meet

April 6

Last regular WRAP
(No WRAP on April 13 due to Holy Week)

April 6 & 20

Women's Bible Study

April 9 & 10

Palm Sunday
75th Anniversary Celebration

April 11

Art & Faith Group

April 11 & 12

Circles meet

April 15

Maundy Thursday

April 17

Easter Sunday
10:00 Service online and in Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt following worship

April 20

WRAP Closing BBQ

April 24

Youth Sunday
Monthly Food Drive

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Mesa, AZ 85201**

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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**