

La Palabra

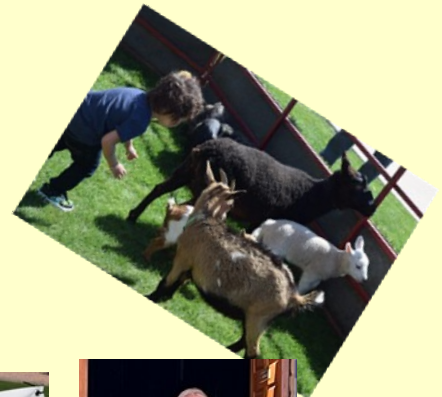
April 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

Our Neighborhood Fun Day

They say a picture's worth a thousand words, and so it is that these pictures speak volumes about the cherished memories we all created together. My compliments to photographer Paul Soderquist, and Susan Chesko for her extraordinary leadership. ~ David



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

NAME THAT BAND MEMBER - We had no winner for last month's mystery guest. Dick Baird stumped us with his epic band photo! Here is the April band member. Please send guesses to music@fpcmesa.org, and all are welcome to send band photos to the same email address!



SINGING WAITERS
MESA 2023

Experience the Music | Experience the Meal
Experience the Magic!

Date

15 APRIL (SATURDAY)
6:00-7:30

Salad | Rolls
Stuffed Baked Potato
(chicken and/or beef)
Green Beans
Iced Tea or Lemonade

Place

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa

LIMITED TO FIRST 100
\$7 TICKET REQUIRED

www.fpcmesa.org/artist-series

Coming Events

- 4/6 Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 and Maundy Thursday Service in the Chapel at 6:15.
- 4/15 (Saturday) Singing Waiters Mesa 2023, Fellowship Hall at 6:00, \$7, fpcmesa.org/artist-series.
- 4/16 Children & Youth Sunday
- 4/23 All-Church Potluck
- 5/7 National Day of Prayer
- 5/13 PW Spring Luncheon
- 5/14 Happy Mother's Day!

Humoresque

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

A man joined the priesthood. The order he joined could not speak for seven years, then they could only say 2 words. The first seven years passed, they went into a small room, and his 2 words were "too cold." The next seven years passed, they took him back into the small room, and his 2 words were "bad food." The next seven years passed, they took him back into the small room, and his 2 words were "I quit." "Good," they said, "all you have done is complain."

ADMINISTRATION

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

Personnel (D) — Roma Naccarato
Nominating (E) — Marcy Snitzer

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



FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

News from the MARCH Session meeting. A complete list of current elders and deacons and the commission they belong to can be found in the La Palabra, listed in each commission's news.

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Session approved the February Session Meeting Minutes and the Minutes from the Annual Congregational and Corporation Meetings.

The Clerk reported that the presbytery Review of Records Committee met in our Fellowship Hall on March 11 and began reading Minutes and Register Books from six East Valley churches for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Presbytery hopes to read all 81 churches by year's end.

Our membership still stands at 240. Average worship attendance for February was 88 in-person and 59 online. For February 2022 the average was 111 and 127.

COMMISSION NEWS:

Administration – the new roof installation was completed in two weeks. Our next project will be to completely repave the parking lot. The February financial reports were approved.

Discipleship – Wednesday WRAP will go to Organ Stop Pizza on April 26, their end-of-the-year event. Sign-ups for the Traveling Day Camp are in progress.

Mission – The Clothes Closet will reopen with the same hours that the Food Pantry is open – the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8 a.m. If you are looking for a way to serve your church, they are in need of volunteers. The Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa is July 2-7. There will be a planning meeting on April 16 for anyone interested in going.

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children’s Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko
 Youth/Young Adult (E) — Ian Harding

April Faith Formation Happenings



FPC’s children and youth will be leading us in worship the week after Easter on April 16 at 10:00 a.m. We are inviting the children and youth to attend rehearsal on Sunday, April 2, at 11:20 a.m., in the sanctuary. Please let Chris know if your child will be participating or make other rehearsal arrangements. Chris@fpcmesa.org



Children up to 6th grade are invited to FPC’s Annual Egg Hunt. The Hunt is scheduled for Easter morning, April 9, 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.

Sunday School Opportunities

| AGE | LOCATION | CURRICULUM |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Children | Jackson | Growing in Grace and Gratitude |
| Adults | Library | I Am Sayings |





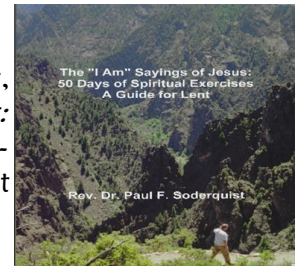
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

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 to be returned on Easter Sunday to be dedicated. You can also contact Chris or the church office to get a fish bank.

Adult Lenten Study. The Adult Sunday School Class announces a Lenten study, February 26th - April 9th. All are welcome. The book is “*The ‘I Am’ Sayings of Jesus: 50 Days of Spiritual Exercises – A Guide for Lent,*” written by Paul Soderquist. Self-published and available at Lulu.com. For more information, contact Paul at 480.740.8730.



Koinonia Women's Bible Study. The Koinonia Women's Zoom Class, meets on Thursdays from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Koinonia is studying the book *Overcomer*, by Dr. David Jeremiah, which describes 8 ways to live a life of unstoppable strength, unmovable faith, and unbelievable power. Women, if interested, contact Karen Rudin, 480-233-1043.

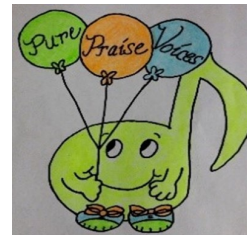
Wednesday WRAP. Adults and children are welcome to join us for WRAP most Wednesdays, September through April at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. (see weekly update for schedule) WRAP includes supper, Bible study for children and adults. Our curriculum is “Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.” There is no WRAP on April 5 due to Holy Week.



Final WRAP of the Year! WRAP is headed to Organ Stop Pizza for our final WRAP event before summer break on Wednesday, April 26th, 5:30 p.m. Enjoy an incredible evening of pizza and music. Anyone from the church, family or friends are encouraged to join us. Please RSVP at chris@fpcmesa.org or to get further details.

Wednesday Afternoon

Pure Praise Voices (Grades 2-8)
Wednesdays 4:45- 5:25 p.m., Choir Room
Focus on singing basics and theater.
Followed by WRAP at 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



The Pure Praise Voices will be putting on a children's musical called *Make A Joyful Noise* this fall, with a theater camp in June. We need more child singers/actors, also people who can help with the stage set, props, and costumes. Please contact PPV Director Karen Rudin, 480-233-1043, if you can help.



Montlure Overnight Summer Camp

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Senior High Camp | June 20-25, 2023 |
| Junior High Camp | June 27-July 1, 2023 |
| 4-6 Grades | July 5-9, 2023 |

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

Maundy Thursday Supper Sign-up. Come join us for our Maundy Thursday Supper on April 6 at 5:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Please bring either a soup, salad or dessert to share. Food sign-up available on Sunday morning or at the church office. Following supper will be the Maundy Thursday service in the chapel at 6:15 p.m.

TRAVELING DAY CAMP
JUNE 26-30
@ MISSION DEL SOL
9am - 3pm*
*FRIDAY 9:00-12:30
\$125 USE CODE FPC2023 FOR \$75 OFF
FOR CAMPERS ENTERING 1-6TH GRADES
REGISTER NOW
Montlure.org

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

Wow! We are really seeing the amazing growth of the preschool children in our program! They have been working hard at learning their concepts like between, besides, under, over, around, through, high, low and so many more. The children continue to prepare for kindergarten and are working on recognizing their names and writing them, too. We have introduced simple math concepts, and they love counting and adding things around the classroom. They also enjoyed having Carter's Farm Petting Zoo & Pony Rides come out for a visit. The llama was a hoot!

Looking ahead, Happy Easter everyone. We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt with the children next week. We celebrate God's great love for us and rejoice in His Resurrection! Save the Date and plan to join us for the end of the school year Spring Fling and Family Picnic on May 10th at 10:30. We hope to see you all there.

Last but not least, we hope that you will help us spread the word about our little preschool program with your friends, family and community while out and about. We are now enrolling for the new school year and have plenty of space for everyone! There is an annual \$100 registration fee to hold their spot. Please send them our way or give them our website information www.fpcmesa.org/preschool. My office hours are from 8:30-1:30 Monday thru Friday. The new school year begins on August 7th, 2023!

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



Clothing Closet Needs Volunteers to assist with this wonderful ministry. The clothing closet is open Fridays from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., and we need volunteers who can sign up to assist one hour per month. We will be reducing hours in the summer to just the 1st and 3rd Fridays, alongside the Food Pantry, so you can still volunteer even if you have summer travel plans. If you are interested in helping with the clothing closet, please contact Shelley Cronenberg.

Mission Trip Save the Date *UPDATE* – The 2023 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona, will be **July 2nd – 7th**. We need volunteers so if you have gone before or always wanted to do a mission trip, perhaps this is the perfect trip for you. **For more information, please plan to attend our information session Sunday, April 16th in Fellowship Hall** after the service. If you are unable to attend, but are interested in participating, please reach out to Shelley Cronenberg (480-239-1289) if you would like to be on the list to receive updates.



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering is taken during the season of Lent. This season of giving starts February 22nd and runs through Easter, April 9th. 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 and communities 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)



The Food Pantry needs your continued help! In the past, United Food Bank helped us source most of the donations needed to help us run our Food Pantry. We recently lost these food donations and could really use your help. If you prefer to donate money instead, please make sure to put Food Pantry in the memo line. Please feel free to bring with you the following items which are collected every Sunday:

- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- A protein (canned chicken, tuna, chili, etc.)
- Toilet Paper is also requested regularly



Women’s Gift Sunday was a wonderful highlight of last month, and the year, as well! The PW ladies and the congregation are very grateful to the Rev. Deanne Hodgson for her inspiring and beneficial message, “Embodied Faith.” Her message to the “children” was also enlightening to all of us.



Barb Walker played the organ beautifully; the piano duet by Barb and Bea Towe was eloquent. Anita Ramsey led the ladies’ choir in “It Is No Secret” with spirit and joy. Thanks to all who contributed, including the many Circle members and others who spoke, ushered, served cake and more.



The Honorary Life Membership to Presbyterian Women, PC(USA) was awarded this year to Sara McWhorter, our friend who has served the church in so many ways and continues her quilt ministry of pocket prayer quilts, many hundred by now, which reminds the holder that “God is always with us.” She is sharing the good news of Jesus every day to so many people. Congratulations and thank you, Sara, for all you do.

ICYMI, (In case you missed it), we also want to thank all who contributed to the beautiful wall hanging in the Pray and Play area of the sanctuary. Jack Oliver painted the central picture on fabric with skill and love; Sara and Suzi Payton added panels of special pictures to the sides, Anita quilted the whole artwork, and Sara finished it by adding borders. What a special gift to the church by very gifted individuals.



Circles invite ladies to join us in the Parlor at your convenience in April: Eve at 4:00 p.m. on April 10; Deborah at 9:30 a.m. on April 11; and, Rachel at 1:00 p.m. on April 11. The study of Celebrating Sabbath continues, this month with a focus on “Sabbath and Justice.” We would love to see you!

April Birthdays



| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Michael Gerlach | 2nd |
| Lois Oelschlager | 2nd |
| Roma Naccarato | 4th |
| Susan Durand | 8th |
| Jessica Reeves | 8th |
| 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 |
| Dave 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.

Calendar Notes

March

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In person or online

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

April 2

Palm Sunday

Deacons meet

April 4 & 19

Women's Bible Study

April 6

Soup Supper in FH (5:30 p.m.)

Maundy Thursday Service (6:15 p.m.)

April 7

Good Friday

April 9

Easter Sunday!

April 10 & 11

Circles meet

April 12 & 19

WRAP

April 16

Children & Youth Sunday

Session meets

April 23

All-Church Potluck

April 26

WRAP Wrap-Up at Organ Stop Pizza



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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161 N. Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201

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A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Phone: 480-964-8606

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**