

# La Palabra

April 2024

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## A Message from Christian

**He has risen!  
He is risen indeed!**

The traditional Easter greeting seemed appropriate to start with since the April La Palabra newsletter is coming out during Holy Week.

In April and beyond we will be exploring what it means to live in light of the resurrection of Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus spent 40 days with his followers culminating with his ascension, followed by Pentecost 10 days later where the Holy Spirit came in a fresh way. We only know a little about what Jesus spoke about in that time. How wonderful it would be to be a fly on the wall for those conversations. I imagine that there was probably a lot of “lightbulbs” lighting up (please excuse the anachronism) for the followers. It is hard to imagine that the conversations did not include Jesus’ “New Commandment” and the “Greatest Commandment” along with number the second one right there with the first; basically ‘love one another.’



We are going to follow suit and explore some of the biblical “one anothers.” There are more than thirty in the New Testament. We don’t have time to explore all of them. Some of them actually overlap a bit. However, we will take a look and some of the big and challenging ones. I cannot wait!

May you and yours have a blessed Easter. I look forward to our journey through Eastertide together.

Blessings,  
Pastor Christian

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## From the Clerk's Desk

News from the **MARCH** Session meeting.

### Clerk's Statistics for **February**

No weddings, births or baptisms

Jo Godfrey died on February 1st. Her memorial service was Saturday, February 10, Pastor Christian officiating

Membership: **190**

Avg. Attendance: 97 in-person & 71 online = 168

*Carol Gerlach, Clerk*

### Reports/Motions

Finance – The Trustees approved the February Financial Reports.
Session approved Lois Hildenbrand's revised request to sell her jellies after worship in Fellowship Hall on April 21st and 28th.
Officer Training for current and incoming elders, deacons and trustees will be Saturday, April 6th, from 8:30 to 1:30 in Fellowship Hall.
Session approved the PNC's recommendation for an Ad Hoc Committee to be known as the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) comprised of five members of the PNC and up to six at-large members of the congregation who represent our diversity to define our mission and further that mission with God's guidance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mission Committee recommends we continue our Community Dinners on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in June, July and August.</li> <li>• They are proposing a mission trip to work at Montlure on April 26-28 and/or May 17-19.</li> <li>• They decided their Second Quarter Mission Project will be to make Blessing Bags for the homeless.</li> </ul>
Worship recommends that summer services be held in Fellowship Hall from May 26th thru September 1st.
Carol Anderson thanks ALL THE WOMEN who participated in Women's Sunday.

### Et cetera

Don't forget - **PER CAPITA for 2024** is \$38.51 (unchanged from 2023). \$23.71 for GC Presbytery, \$5.00 for the Synod of the Southwest and \$9.80 for GA. The amount we owe, based on our 12/31/22 membership of 240, is \$9,242.40. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone would be able to/could pay their own per capita.

### Monthly Potluck



### Fellowship

Everyone is invited to a potluck lunch after worship on April 28th! Please bring a dish to share. A good time will be had by all!

## Worship

Lots going on in the life of our church as we finish the very busy month of March and head into an exciting April!



- We'll commemorate the Last Supper with Communion during our Maundy Thursday Service on March 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Our Easter Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 31st, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and online. The worship service will include our Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and HolyGrounds Praise Band. Join us on Easter Sunday as we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Eternal King!

The Artist Series presents Dotty & Tina in concert on April 14th at 3:00 in the Sanctuary. They performed for us at last year's Spring Festival. Come and enjoy an afternoon of their unique song stylings!



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, writing them, too. We have introduced simple math concepts and they love counting and adding things around the classroom.

Looking ahead, Happy Easter everyone. 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 15th 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](http://www.fpcmesa.org/preschool) My office hours are from 8:30-1:30 Monday thru Friday. The new school year begins on August 5th, 2024!

Blessings!  
Shiloh

March was Women's History Month and FPC Presbyterian Women felt privileged to lead worship on March 10th. Several women from the congregation participated by reading, singing, praying and sharing, and we are grateful for the excellent job done by all.



There were two very special aspects of this year's service. First, our guest speaker was Rev. Jocabed Gallegos from Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, who is a Coordinator with Frontera de Cristo, our mission partner. She was our host logistically and spiritually during our 2019 mission trip. It was great



to have her share the Word through an enlightening sermon. Second, Jack Oliver was awarded the Honorary Life Membership award for his multitude of outstanding contributions to our church...and community. We were honored to have several guests worshipping with us, some special friends of Joca, as well as family and guests of Pastor Christian who were here for his installation later in the day.



It was an exciting day in the life of our church.

PW are now looking forward to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon's PW Spring Gathering on April 13th at Orangewood Presbyterian Church. Then on May 18th, FPC will host our spring luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker for the luncheon will be Chris Casanova, our Synod representative, who will tell us about the USA Mission Experience, when groups from several synods visited the borderlands and learned about mission work and ongoing needs at our eastern border. All are invited to attend and hear this informative presentation.

We are amazed that we are down to only two more lessons of Sacred Encounters, the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. The April lesson is "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship," and the circles will meet the following times: Eve – April 8th at 4:00 p.m., Deborah – April 9th at 9:30 a.m., and Rachel – April 9th at 1:00 p.m. All ladies are welcome at any circle!



An example of why Jack was awarded Honorary Life Membership in PW!



## Mission

The Spring Festival was on March 16th. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a huge success!

Our church would like to have groups go help at Montlure camp in Greer, AZ. There are two weekends to choose from: April 26-28 or May 17-19.

Throughout the years, Montlure has had groups of volunteers continually maintain and make needed repairs to the camp. Now with the effort to return campers home in 2024, we have *many tasks and projects that will have to happen to make camp safe and ready for campers. For Spring of 2024, some of the projects to complete include:*

- Restore electric to Bathhouse and Porcupine Cabin
- Replace a water heater
- Revamp Nurse's cabin/repair railing
- Kitchen/equipment up to code
- Add additional bathroom/shower facility
- Restore pathways
- Repair/Replace window and coverings
- Build fencing for USFS mitigation
- Drainage mitigation work
- Sewer line work
- Resurface concrete on basketball court
- Other general construction/repair projects
- Deep cleaning projects and *much* more!



We need skilled construction and trades; please let us know of your abilities when you sign up. However, we also need deep cleaners, odds and ends general repairs, and a few people at each work camp to prepare meals. There is something for everyone!

While work camps are at no cost to participants, for those who are able, we ask for a minimum donation of \$50 per person to our **Friends of Montlure** fund to help cover the utility and supply costs for all work camps. **If interested in going on one or both weekends, please let Susan Chesko or Mike Gerlach know.**

Community dinners will be served during the summer months on the first Wednesday of June, July and August. We will open Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. for people to come in out of the heat, but the meal will be served at 5:00 p.m.

We will be putting together Blessing Bags to hand out to the homeless around the valley. A list of items needed will be available the week of April 15th and donations for this mission can be made through May 1st in the office or at church on Sundays.

# Discipleship



## 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

Fish Banks should be returned on Easter Sunday to be dedicated.

## Montlure Summer Camps

### Overnight:

Senior High Camp     June 2-7, 2024  
Junior High Camp     June 10-15, 2024  
4-6 Grades             June 25-29, 2024

### Traveling Day Camp

June 10-14, Mission del Sol Church, Tempe

Register at [Montlure.org](http://Montlure.org). Partial campership available on our church website for Overnight and Traveling Day Camp. \$75 off TDC w/ code FPC2024.



**montlure**  
Traveling Day Camp

**June 10-14**

Monday - Thursday  
9am to 3pm  
Friday 9am to 12:30pm  
Extended Care Mon-Thur until 5pm

\$75 off with Code FPC2024  
Lunch is included

## April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Lois Oelschlager	2nd
Roma Naccarato	4th
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
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

#### April

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In person or online

Christian Education:

Children at 11:20 a.m.

Adults at 11:30 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken 1st and 3rd Sunday

#### April 3

Community Dinner

#### April 3 & 17

Women's Bible Study

#### April 6

Officer Training

#### April 7

Deacons meet

#### April 8 & 9

Circles meet

#### April 14

Dotty & Tina Concert

#### April 21

Session meets

#### April 28

Potluck Sunday

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

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**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Closed Friday**

**Christian Johnson, Pastor (January 15, 2024)  
Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries  
Chris McKee, Director of Operations  
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications  
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director  
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper**