

La Palabra

May 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

May brings not only May flowers, but also Mother's Day. While this is a day of honoring and remembering our Mothers, it can also be a very difficult day for many women. For this reason, I want to share with you a prayer for Mother's Day that was originally written by Amy Young and then adapted. As I will be away on Mother's Day, spending time with my daughter, please know that I will be praying with and for you.

A Prayer for Mother's Day

I want you to know that I'm praying for you

- if you are like Tamar struggling with infertility or miscarriage...
- if you are like Rachel counting the women among your family and friends who continue to get pregnant while you wait...
- if you are like Naomi and have known the bitter sting of a child's death...
- if you are like Joseph and Benjamin and your Mom has died...
- if your relationship with your Mom was marked by trauma, abuse or abandonment, or she just couldn't parent you the way you needed...
- if you've been like Moses' mother and put a child up for adoption, trusting another family to love your child into adulthood...
- if you've been like Pharaoh's daughter, called to love children who are not yours by birth but yours by love...
- if you are watching your Mother age and, possibly, disappear into the long goodbye of dementia...
- if you are like Mary, pregnant for the first time and waiting breathlessly for the miracle of your first child...
- if your children have turned away from you, painfully closing the door on relationship, leaving you holding your broken heart in your hands...
- if you are like Hagar now mothering alone...
- if Motherhood is your greatest joy and toughest struggle all wrapped into one...
- if you are watching your child battle substance abuse, a public legal situation, mental illness, or another situation which you can merely watch unfold...
- if you, like so many women before you, do not wish to be a mother, and others do not seem to understand or accept this...
- if you are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains...
- if your nest is now or will soon be empty and you'll need to adjust to a new normal...

There is a wide spectrum of Mothering and we honor all. This Mother's Day, wherever and whoever you are, we walk with you. You are loved. You are seen. You are worthy. May you know the deep love without end of our good and gracious God who is indeed the best example of a parent that we know! Amen!

~ 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

Thank you to the Cast & Crew of *Annie Get Your Gun* for terrific performances of our 23rd Annual First Players Production. Thank you also to the congregation for supporting the First Players and each of our Artist Series events, through your donations and event attendance. We are very thankful that this year's production enjoyed outstanding attendance.

The annual Preschool Spring Fling (concert) will be held on Thursday, May 9th, at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend!

I will play a concert at Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church in Payson on May 22nd. One of my childhood buddies is organist there, and he has invited me to visit and play a program. If you would enjoy heading out of town for some organ music and cooler weather, please drop by.

Our summer choir schedule is rapidly approaching. Copies of the schedule will be available on Sunday, May 26th, in the Church Office, Choir Room, Information Kiosk, and at fpcmesa.org/worship-planning. **We'll have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. from Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day Sunday.**



The triennial [International Choral Festival in Missoula, Montana](#), will be held this July 17-20. The Festival is produced by volunteers in a beautiful mountain setting that connects musicians of diverse cultural traditions with regional audiences and local hosts. Several members of our congregation will be attending. If you would like Festival information, please contact Mark in the Church Office.

Coming Events

- 6/10-14 Montlure Traveling Day Camp (VBS)

Allan Schultz received FPC's 2019 Grand Canyon Presbytery Senior Service Award. Congratulations to Allan!

Allan served as Older Adult Fellowship elder for three years and has served as Property Elder, serving on Dave's Crew, making repairs to the facility. For the last 12 musical productions at FPC, Allan has been the Stage Manager, making backdrops and props and running things behind the scenes. He comes out from behind the scene to share his talents as a member of the Sanctuary Choir as well! He currently manages the church Columbarium and is chairing a campus revitalization task force to upgrade the facility to make it more usable for the congregation.

Humoresque

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

Two priests die at the same time and meet Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "I'd like to get you guys in now, but our computer is down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week, but you can't go back as priests. So what else would you like to be?" The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains." "So be it," says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest. The second priest asks, "Will any of this week 'count', St. Peter?" "No," he says. "I told you the computer's down. There's no way we can keep track of what you're doing." "In that case. I've always wanted to be a stud." "So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears. When the computer is running again, God asks St. Peter to recall the two priests. "Will you have any trouble locating them?" "The first one should be easy," says St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rockies, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult" He's on a snow tire, somewhere in North Dakota."



The Salsa Challenge which was scheduled for May 5th has been cancelled.

If you or your child is graduating this spring, please let the church office or Ann know so that we can recognize your accomplishment in worship! Please let us know about high school, college, or graduate school or any other graduations!

Thank you and Congratulations!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! From Memorial Day to Labor Day, there will be one 10:00 service every Sunday. More details to follow.

MISSION

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

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

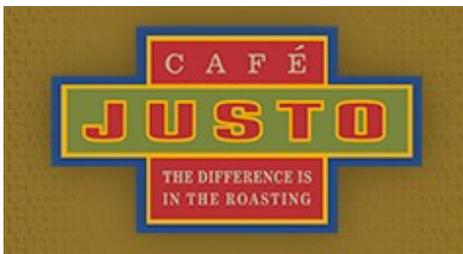
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Shelley Cronenberg
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

One Great Hour of Sharing Special offering reached \$2763.96 in contributions! Thank you for your usual generous support of this vital offering.



Pentecost Special Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. This offering helps our youth begin life with a strong foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Forty percent of the offering stay with our congregation to support a youth initiative of our own choosing. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). Twenty-five percent supports ministries of youth. And ten percent supports Child Advocacy, "Educate a Child, Transform the World."

Mission Delegation will be sharing more about the women and children ministries of Frontera de Cristo during the Presbyterian Women's Luncheon on Saturday, May 11th. Plan to come and hear more about the border experience.

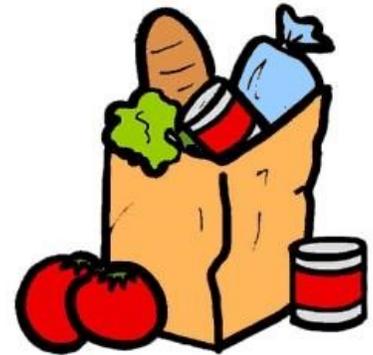


Café Justo Coffee sales went quickly in March. We sold 38 of the 42 bags of coffee in about 20 minutes. There are still two bags of decaf medium roast whole beans and two bags of decaf dark roast whole beans left. If anyone is interested in those, contact Sue Eisenklam at 480-993-6512. Next coffee sale will be in June.

The Food Pantry is doing well and appreciates all of your donations. We are in need of spaghetti, cereals and snack bars.

Everyone who received food bags on Good Friday loved the palm frond crosses that were given out. Thanks to Betty and Karelle who made this day special with their beautiful craft.

A BIG thank you goes out to all the volunteers who work each month. Many of them return to summer homes and will be missed. Here is a list of our wonderful workers: Jean Chappell, Marilyn Uithoven, Elly Weinel, Cheryl Gregory, Bonnie Puckett, Sara McWhorter, Paula Carter, Gloria Hoskins, Betty & Karelle Reid-Hoefer, Jack & Yvonne Oliver, and Kelly Clark. Our heavy lifters are: Dennis & Darlene Sitzler, Ron Payton, and Mary Thompson.



Bless our workers and our church for this needed mission in feeding the hungry.

— Sandy Clark

DISCIPLESHIP

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

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

Youth/Young Adult (E) —

Montlure Traveling Day Camp is coming to Gilbert Presbyterian Church, in partnership with the east valley Presbyterian churches. We are excited to partner with Montlure to bring the camping experience right to our students who are completing K-5th grades this year. Day Camp will be from **June 10th-14th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** with an extended care option. Registration is open and the cost is \$75 for the week, but our church is providing a \$25 scholarship. Spots are filling up fast, so do not delay in getting registered. Please contact us if additional scholarship assistance is needed. Cost includes everything, for the week even daily lunch and snack! Contact Ellen Hickey [602-684-0750](tel:602-684-0750) for more information. Register online at: Camper Registration: Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com.

Wow! This school year has flown by! It is hard to believe it is almost over. We have had a **fantastic 32nd year** together with 37 children enrolled! Let's celebrate this milestone during the **Teacher Appreciation Week coming up, May 6th-10th**. This is a special week-long event to show our teachers how much we care. Please consider surprising them with a little note of encouragement, special gift or a good book for their summer reading pleasure.

Our **Annual Spring Fling** will be on **Thursday, May 9th, at 10:30 a.m.** We hope that you will join us as the children sing a few songs for their families. There will also be a family picnic after the program. The preschool will provide the sub-sandwiches and the families are asked to bring something to share. Hope to see you there!



Our **last day of school** will be **Tuesday, May 21st**. We will reopen for our **33rd School Year on August 12th!** We will hold a special "Meet the Teacher" event for the new families on **Thursday, August 8th**, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Don't forget: We are now enrolling for our Fall 2019 school year and need your help. Now is the time to think about putting your preschool child or grandchild into our 4-Star Quality Plus preschool to get ready for kindergarten. Stop by the preschool office and pick up a registration packet today! Tours will be available Monday through Friday 9:00-11:30 a.m. in June and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in July. Stop by!

Thank you for all of the love, prayers and support that you continually show to us. It means so much and we truly can feel the strength of your caring!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director



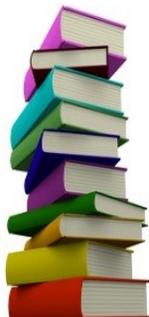
ADMINISTRATION

Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach
Property (E) (Chair) — Robert Harding
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

Personnel (D) — Susan McMichael
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Michael Gerlach
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

Books! Books! And More Books!



After going through a face lift, the “Church Library” will soon be available for meetings and classroom use. There will be new tables that can be arranged to accommodate larger gatherings or small intimate groups. Let’s look forward to enjoying this new “old” space. The books on the bookcases will remain for the membership to use. During the month of May there will be books displayed on tables for anyone to take home to enhance their personal libraries. Please stop by and take a look when you are on the church campus. Any books left at the end of May will be donated to a worthy cause.



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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!

- **May 5th — Salsa Challenge has been cancelled.**
- August (date TBD) — Ice cream social
- September 13th — Diamondbacks Faith & Family Night



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community



The Rest of the Story

PW Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 11

Meet & Greet 11:30

Lunch 12:00

Bring a salad to share

Mission trip participants will tell of their encounters and experiences with women and children along the Mexican border. The congregation and guests are invited.

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Raul Flores	4th
Bill Smith	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	6th
Everleigh Reeves	8th
Fran Gunter	11th
Suzie Payton	12th
George Wagner	12th
Jon Lokensgard	14th
Sue Eisenklam	16th
Robert Martz	16th
Jennifer Smith	17th
Mihret Gerlach	19th
Lynne Logan	21st
Robert Harbin	22nd
Graham Walker	22nd
Vivian Buck	23rd
Lynne Harding	24th
Karen Eberhardt	25th
Yvonne Oliver	25th
Maggie Cronenberg	28th
Patricia Wyse	28th
Jo Godfrey	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

May 6
Deacons meet

May 9
Preschool Spring Fling

May 11
PW Spring Luncheon

May 12
Happy Mother's Day!

May 13 & 14
Circles meet

May 19
Commissions & Session meet

May 26
Monthly Food Drive
Begin one 10:00 worship service through Labor Day

May 27
Memorial Day — Office closed



IN MEMORIAM

Clara Padelford, March 14, 2019



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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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**