

La Palabra

May 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” (John 14:27)

This is one of my favorite verses of Scripture and one to which I cling in difficult times. The peace of Christ is a gift I treasure and a foundation of my faith. My prayer during these days is that all of you sense and are being sustained by the deep peace of Christ.

At our session meeting on April 19th, the session appointed a “Re-Opening Task Force” to study and discern safe and prudent ways for us to begin to gather again when the stay at home orders are lifted. Many aspects of our life together will need to be modified, at least for awhile. This is also an opportunity for us to think deeply and pray faithfully about our ministry. What means the most to us? What is essential for reaching out with the love of God to our neighbors in need? What might need to be altered or renewed? Is there anything that we ought to let go of altogether?

The work of the task force will be undertaken with the guidelines of our local and national government and with the recommendations of our Presbytery and denominational leaders at the forefront of the process. We will study many resources and, by God’s grace, discern together a safe and workable plan for the particular demographics of our congregation. Session will receive a proposed plan at the May session meeting and information will be made available to the congregation in as timely a fashion as possible.

Our gatherings may look different for awhile, but we trust in God’s goodness and grace to lead us into an unknown, yet hope-filled, future where we will continue to praise and worship God and grow in faith together.

I would like to close by sharing with you a favorite benediction ~ a Gaelic blessing ~ that was often sung at my home church:

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you

~ Ann

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WORSHIP

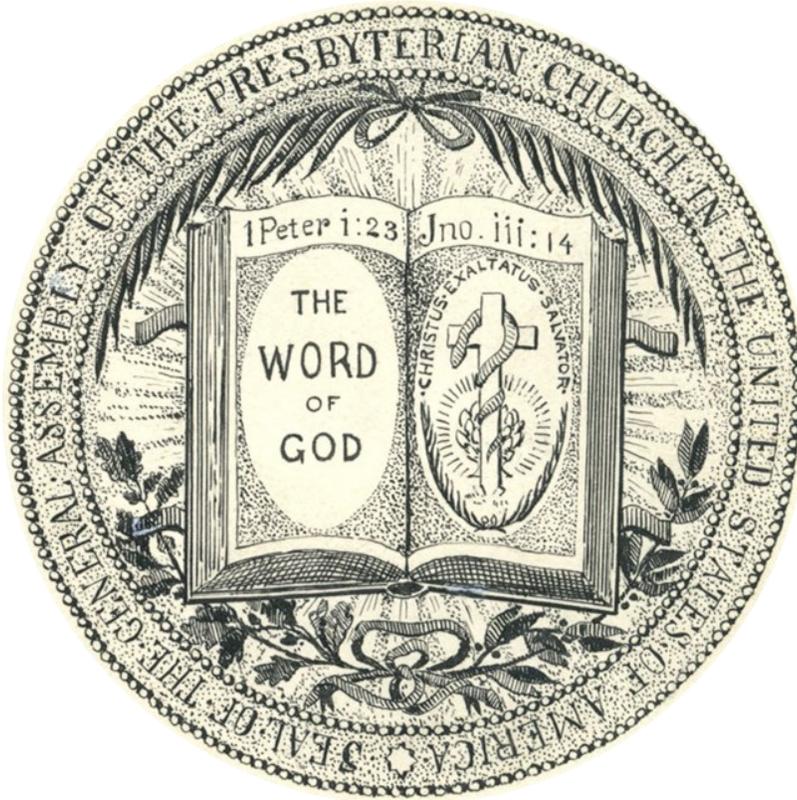
Worship (E) – Dan Reeves
Dir. Of Music Ministries (Chair) – Mark Ramsey
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen
Worship (D) — David Miller

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



Presbyterian Heritage Sunday will be observed on May 17th. The opening date of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America was May 21, 1789. We will celebrate our heritage with a bit of music education and song on the 17th! We'll celebrate the 30th year of our magnificent Visser-Rowland organ and learn about the various parts of this very complex instrument! Daniel Burton's *Rex: The King of the Instruments* will be offered during worship, and Anita will be our featured narrator. Along with live music, the piece will demonstrate the majesty of the pipe organ and its music.

The celebration will continue as gospel hymns will be the choice of congregation song on May 17th. Philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." However, many times we are very blessed to repeat it. On the 17th, we'll have that very opportunity! We will enjoy many gospel melodies.

When choosing gospel songs for our worship services, I typically consult the "Bill Martin" list. Bill was an FPC member who volunteered in our Church Office. He often sang a favorite gospel tune as he went about his office work. When asked to create a list of some of his favorites, he came up with thirty or so gospel hymns, a few of which must have been popular in only his younger years. Playing stump-the-current-church-leaders, Bill serenaded the office with tunes such as *Precious Name, O How Sweet*, which he sang with all of his heart, and which some of you may count among your favorites. We'll have the opportunity to sing some of those (bit more familiar) "favorite" gospel hymns during worship on May 17th. We'll gather virtually while still enjoying the wonderful bond of fellowship provided by great gospel music. You'll be invited to either sing with the gusto of Bill Martin or just enjoy reminiscing while listening to some of the musical pearls which echoed through age-old chapels large and small with the joy-filled strains of our faith-filled ancestors. Join us on the 17th, and be ready to learn about the organ and be in your good singing voices as we dare to repeat some of those good ole gospel melodies!

Coming Events

- Summer Music Schedule!

Humoresque

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

On Sunday, the new young pastor arrived at church and found only an old farmer had shown up. After waiting a while, the disappointed pastor remarked to the old farmer, "Well, it appears no one else is coming, so we should probably cancel service today." The farmer, dressed in his Sunday best, looked at the young preacher and said, "Well, pastor, I don't know much 'bout preachin', but I do know something 'bout farmin', and if I went out in the field and found only one cow, I'd still feed 'em." This excited the young preacher who preached for the next 45 minutes a fierce fire and brimstone sermon. Afterwards the pastor asked the old farmer what he thought. The old farmer remarked, "Well, pastor, I don't know much 'bout preachin', but I do know somethin' 'bout farmin', and if I went out in the field and found only one cow, I wouldn't give 'em the whole bale." [from Jim Bruening]

Virtual, Online Worship - Need for new Equipment

As you are probably aware, we have been gathering virtually for worship during this time of sheltering in place. It has been quite an experience for the staff, and we are all very grateful for your encouragement and support. We are also very grateful to Gregg Gerlach as he has been recording, editing, and uploading the videos so that you can all tune in on Sunday mornings for worship.

It has become apparent that it would be beneficial to continue offering online worship, even when we are once again able to safely return to worshiping in the Sanctuary. Some among us are in a more vulnerable or fragile state of health and will need to continue to worship from home.

However, we won't be able to continue using our current set up for recording. New equipment will be needed to provide concurrent in-person and on-line worship. Our budget didn't anticipate nor plan for this type of need.

If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of this equipment, please contact Mark Ramsey or Brent Gregory at the church office. We appreciate your support of our mission and ministry!

DISCIPLESHIP

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

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

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding
Youth Elder — Will Snitzer

May Faith Formation Happenings

Montlure Traveling Day Camp & Overnight Camp Change

Due to the health crisis and concerns of COVID-19, it is with a very heavy heart that Montlure has announced that all physical, in-person camps, will not happen for Summer 2020. Camp is not being canceled entirely for the camp staff is busy designing a virtual alternative called Camp Reimagined. Registration for Camp Reimagined is now open online. Registration at <https://montlure.campbrainregistration.com/>

Camp Dates:

Junior High & Senior High (Grades 7-12) June 7-12

Juniors (Grades 1-6): June 14-19



Montlure Campership Update

First Presbyterian Church of Mesa values the spiritual growth of our churches' children and youth -- and the unique, perhaps life-changing, experience they can have during summer camp at Montlure. Camperships are available to help provide this opportunity to young people who may need financial assistance. The 2020 campership amounts have been adjusted to accommodate Montlure's Reimagined (Virtual) Camps: FPC Mesa will cover \$90 of the fees for all FPC Mesa children and youth who register. Families are asked to pay the \$10 Montlure application fee. Scholarships for the remaining \$35 will be available upon request. Please register your child and pay Montlure less the amount of your campership request. [Campership request forms need to be completed at least 2 weeks prior to the start date of camp and are available on the church website.](#)

Faith Formation Resources

During this time of social distancing, we have provided numerous resources including written and video devotions for all ages to enjoy on our church's website: <https://fpcmesa.org/discipleship>.

High School & College Grads

Graduation is quickly coming upon us and we want to recognize all our high school and college graduates and congratulate them for all their hard work. Please provide Chris the graduate's name, where they are graduating from and their plans for the fall by May 15, 2020.

Sunday Youth Class on Zoom

Hey FPC Youth, join us in our virtual Youth Room to hangout, check-in and talk God stuff. We will meet Sundays at 10:00 a.m. for about 35-45 minutes. If this is your first time getting onto Zoom, please allow a few extra minutes for setup. Please contact Chris to obtain the Zoom meeting number and password to enter. Chris@fpcmesa.org

Midweek Youth on Zoom

We are launching a midweek youth gathering on Wednesday evenings via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Chris to get the Zoom meeting number and password. Chris@fpcmesa.org.

Online Youth Platform (Junior and Senior High)

In addition to Sunday Youth on Zoom, I have created a private youth page on Facebook for youth and parents to connect. Please contact Chris to get an invitation. I am connecting with the youth via group texting, so please contact me to include your youth. I am open for suggestions for other platforms to use. Chris@fpcmesa.org

Confirmation Class Via Video Conference

We have changed our confirmation class format to meeting via video conferencing on Zoom. We are meeting most Sundays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Please contact Chris for more information and details on how to log in. Chris@fpcmesa.org

In Christ,

Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation
chris@fpcmesa.org



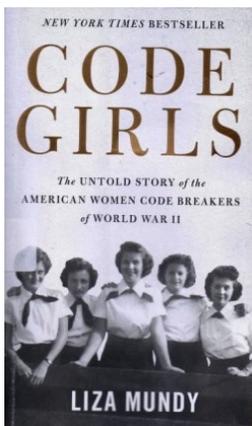
Are these the strangest times or what?! We, here at the preschool, are really missing our kiddos and families! We know that there is no replacement for those sweet little hugs, but we will be sure to fill our love-tank when they return in the fall.

Speaking of which, we are now ready to open the Fall 2020 Registration for our classes, and we need your help getting the word out. Please tell everyone that registration is now open. We will be taking applications for both the 3-year-old class and the Pre-K class. We also have scholarships available for those who qualify. Please email me directly at preschool@fpcmesa.org or call me directly at 480-835-7877. We are unable to give tours at this time, but I WILL be giving detailed mental image tours.

I look forward to hearing from you and your friends or family soon! God bless each one of you and may you stay safe and healthy during this unusual time of change.

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

Books from the 2019-20 reading list are on the PW shelf in the library.



Code Girls, The Untold Story of American Women Code Breakers of World War II by Liza Mundy

Code Girls reveals a hidden army of female cryptographers whose work played a crucial role in ending World War II. This is another piece of forgotten women who made history.

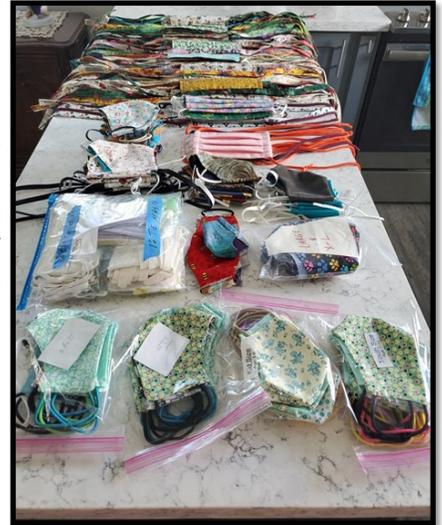
MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg
Pastor — Ann Conklin
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark
Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak

Fellowship (D) — Carol Strouse
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Dale Gibson
Mission (D) — Sue Eisenklam

Mission Trip Update – We have had to make some changes to our Mission Trip due to Covid-19. The Mission Planning Team decided that it would not be advisable to continue our plans to travel up to the Navajo Nation, but there is still a great need there, and so we have changed our mission focus to getting much needed supplies there instead. If you have not seen some of the news stories that have come out, this virus is hitting the Navajo community incredibly hard. We need to support our Native American brothers and sisters and are planning to help two ways. The first way includes partnering with other Presbyterian churches to gather supplies from our churches and have them delivered to the Navajo Nation. So far only April dates have been announced, but if these efforts continue in May or beyond, information will come in the weekly FPC News emails.

Our Second project is that we wanted to do some shipments directly to Tseyi Bidda since that is where we were going to do our Mission Trip and those shipments will continue on an as-needed basis. A special thank you to Sara McWhorter, Jean Chapel, Ellen Hickey, Elly Weinel, Anita Ramsay, and Sue Eisenklam who together made 213 masks to send, as well as the sewing machine donation from Sara so they can sew even more themselves. We will also be sending gloves and hand sanitizer. They also mentioned the need for food and water. If you would like to donate anything else, please contact Shelley Cronenberg at Shelley.Cronenberg@gmail.com or 480-239-1289.



Pentecost has officially begun, and we are now collecting for this special offering now through May 31. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. 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 stays 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 10 percent supports Child Advocacy “Educate a child, Transform the World.”

One Great Hour of Sharing special offering raised \$2,105 in contributions! I cannot thank you enough for your support of this important offering!



The Food Pantry is still serving the needs of those less fortunate every Friday. We realize getting food for us is not easy, but I felt I should tell you of wanted items. We need pasta, cereals, and dry milk packets. We also are in great need of plastic grocery bags from any store. I am always there on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. for deliveries or call me.

This mission project is most rewarding to those people who need food. Thank you for



your donations and prayers.

-- Sandy Clark

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 |
| Christina Dzodzomenyo | 12th |
| Suzie Payton | 12th |
| George Wagner | 12th |
| Jon Lokensgard | 14th |
| Sue Eisenklam | 16th |
| Jennifer Smith | 17th |
| Mihret Gerlach | 19th |
| 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

Right now there are no events scheduled on our campus. If this changes, we will let you know as quickly as possible. Please read the Weekly Update that is emailed on Saturday or listen to the announcements during Sunday worship for updated information.



IN MEMORIAM

Lynne Logan — April 12, 2020



Coronavirus 2020: Do you have any thoughts or comments you would like to share about this coronavirus? As Church Historian, I have made a Coronavirus 2020 file and would like to include any messages from our congregation in it. In addition to a narrative I'm writing, the file includes coronavirus messages/guides to local churches from Presbytery and the PC (USA), an article from The Presbyterian Outlook Magazine regarding the 224th GA Convention scheduled for June in Baltimore, Medicare Coronavirus updates and the April La Palabra. I would welcome any messages you would care to contribute. Please email them to me at rlgclg6_6@hotmail.com or by U.S. mail to Carol Gerlach, 238 E Gary Circle, Mesa 85201.

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon**

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