

La Palabra

May 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Our Cosmic Habitat

To my vacation in Albuquerque has come word that today is Earth Day, and that it marks the fifty-second anniversary of the heroic attempt to save the planet that began in 1970! Well now, so long as my vacation has already been interrupted by this earth-shattering news, I feel compelled to take a moment to set the record straight!

The first earth day was the third day of creation when God divided the waters and called forth the dry land; and then on the sixth day of creation God assigned to us the responsibility of caring for the earth that God had created for our habitat.

Until very recently, the word God used was *dominion*, as in *Let them have dominion*. That word has now been expunged from sacred texts because contemporary linguists have arbitrarily decided that it means *to dominate*, and they claim that all the environmental problems we face are because we have chosen to dominate over creation rather than live in harmony with it.

In truth, for thousands of years, in Hebrew and in Christian tradition, the word *dominion* has meant *to be responsible for* ~ as in *being accountable to God*. Therefore, in my humble opinion, the urgent problem we now face is not global warming, but spiritual cooling ~ not the changes in the climate but the changes we have made to environmental spirituality.

How easy it is to assign blame to those who don't subscribe to the same popular narrative that we promote, but the care of the earth is fundamentally a spiritual experience ~ so much so that at times I have imagined that when we arrive at the Pearly Gates, on the threshold of Glory, we may all be surprised to discover that we are asked but one question: *And how have you exercised dominion over all that I have made?*

Yes, it's Earth Day. But every day is Earth Day from God's perspective! It has always been that way, and it will forever be remembered that way in glory ~ that every day we were privileged to live upon this cosmic habitat has been an extraordinary opportunity to care for one of God's most amazing creations.

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

Happy Mother’s Day! On May 8th, we’ll celebrate Mother's Day by honoring those who have shared the joys of motherhood for the longest and shortest periods of time. There will be prizes! Join us in worship as we share God’s Word and honor the love and joy of Mother’s Day.

One of our organ students, Jared Garcia, will play as part of a scholarship student recital on Sunday, May 15th, at 3:00 p.m. The recital will be held at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church (25150 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale) and will be open to the public!

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday will be observed at the end of this month, and we will celebrate with a special anthem on Sunday, May 22nd. The music will feature our Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir in "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Plan to be blessed in song as the centuries-old melody will be blended with modern handbell techniques! In 1752, Robert Robinson attended an evangelical meeting to heckle the believers and make fun of the proceedings. Instead, he listened in awe to the words of the great preacher George Whitefield, and in 1755, he responded to the call he felt three years earlier and became a Christian. When preparing a sermon for his church in Norfolk, England, he penned the words that have become one of the church’s most-loved hymns, “Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.” As the shepherd gathers sheep back into the fold, the hymn reminds us of God’s bountiful gift of grace. We are “prone to wander,” but God continues to bring us back with songs of praise on our lips.

Our Preschool Children will have their own songs to share during the first week of May! The annual Preschool Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, May 5th, at 10:30 a.m. The big event will be in Fellowship Hall, and the congregation is invited to attend.

The 2022-23 Artist Series will include The First Players’ production of *Singin’ in the Rain*, which met with an untimely curtain close at the onset of Covid-19, a week prior to our opening night! With the support of Music Theatre International, production materials and licensing were extended through the show’s run, which is set for this fall, November 4-6. The Players’ 24th “annual” production will include three dinner-theater performances in the “First Theater” (Fellowship Hall). Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend the much-anticipated production!



Coming Events

- 5/8 Mother's Day
- 5/29 Memorial Day Weekend
- 6/5 Pentecost Sunday
- 6/9-12 CarePortal Mission Trip

fpcmesa.org/worship

Humoresque

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

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day, the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest. "Father Patrick," he says, "my dog is dead. Could ya' be sayin' a Mass for the poor creature?" The priest replied, "I'm afraid not, my son. We cannot be havin' services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature." Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away. Father. Do ya think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?" Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?" [from Don Krill]



Many thanks for the prayers and concerns of all as I went through the grieving with the loss of my son and other family concerns. I am so grateful for all the love.

~ Marilyn Uithoven

I want to thank everyone for the cards, emails, phone calls and hugs following the death of my sister, Georgia. They were very much appreciated and comforting at this sad time.

~ Dale Gibson

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

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

May Faith Formation Happenings



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 other East Valley Presbyterian churches. TDC is for children completing K-5 grades. Online Registration now open! Register: Montlure.org. Partial camperships available. Please contact Chris McKee for details. chris@fpcmesa.org.



Preschool Teacher Appreciation: We are so blessed to have a wonderful Preschool program at FPC Mesa. As the school year is drawing to a close, we would like to offer our appreciation to our talented teachers. During the month of May you will have an opportunity to drop off a kind note of encouragement or place a gift of appreciation in the provided basket in Fellowship Hall. The teachers will be given these baskets on May 22. Please contact Susan Chesko or Anita Ramsey for further details.



Youth Sunday Thank you! Our Youth Sunday theme this year was Superheroes and how we can use our God-given talents to serve one another, pleasing to God and in service to our fellow neighbors. Thank you to our incredible youth and young adults for providing us an awesome worship experience.

That's a WRAP Closing BBQ. Wednesday WRAP closed up another awesome year with an enjoyable evening of BBQ, games, and music provided by our very own Mark Ramsey. Thank you for everyone who made it a great year! See you when we return in the fall.



FPC Mesa offers Sunday School for children, youth and adult at 11:20 a.m. Sundays. Our children and youth program will be going on Summer Break on May 29 and returning on September 11.

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

Well, the school year has zipped by so quickly! It is now the last month of school, and we have been very busy getting the children ready for kindergarten and the world 😊 Some of the many things we have been up to include gardening, watching a momma hummingbird sit on her eggs in the nest on the play yard, art expressions, and welcoming family pets as visitors, too! We are looking forward to our next adventures with the children as they sing songs for their families at our annual Spring Fling and Family Picnic on May 5th at 10:30 a.m. Please join us!



Also, please join us in recognition of our superior teachers and staff! During the week of May 2-6, we will be celebrating with a week-long Teacher Appreciation. Please stop by and show your gratitude for all of their hard work this year! Ms. Nicki, Ms. Sara, Ms. Chantal, Ms. Alex and Ms. Shiloh would love to see you!

We are also well on our way with our Early Registration for the new school year. The preschool will be celebrating its 36th year and expect that many families will be joining us! Please help us spread the word about our little school and share the registration information with them. There are flyers in the church office or you can visit our website for more information. www.fpcmesa.org/preschool Please email or call the preschool office for more information. 480-835-7877 We offer tours by appointment and welcome all children who are at least 2.5 years old and who are potty-trained. The registration fee is \$100 per child.

What a challenging but wonderful year we have had at the preschool!

Shiloh Murillo, Director

Congratulation High School Graduates

We are so proud of our High School graduates and all their accomplishments. We will be acknowledging our high school graduates on Sunday, May 15th, in worship. Congratulations grads! "You're off to great places! You're off and away! – "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" -Dr. Seuss



Aaron Chesko graduating from San Tan Charter. Headed to Barrett's Honors College at ASU, Mechanical Engineering



Ben Gerlach graduating from Heritage Academy. Headed to Barrett's Honors College at ASU, Biomedical Sciences



Flora Njoku graduating from Westwood High School. Headed to MCC



Isobel Letizia graduating from Arete Prep Academy. Possibly headed to Ursinus College, Rhodes College or Bradley University, Biology or Psychology



Mary Martin graduating from Williams Field High School & East Valley Institute of Technology. Headed to MCC, Veterinary Technician



Tanya Snitzer, graduating from Mountain View High School. Headed to Barrett's Honors College at ASU, Sustainability

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

Montlure works are in full swing, and we are very excited to be inching ever closer to fully reopening our summer camp program in Greer. While we are inching forward there is so much that needs to be done both in maintenance activities at Greer and fundraising to complete all the projects required to open camp. Everyone can make a difference. We have jobs for all levels of ability. It is an amazing opportunity for fellowship. If you would like to get involved, we have a work camp scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. Please contact Mike Gerlach or Marcy Snitzer for more information. It will be a great opportunity to get to cooler temperatures and beautiful scenery. If you can't make Memorial Day weekend, please check montlure.org for other camp dates.



Pentecost has officially begun, and we are now collecting for this special offering now through June 5th. 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 \$1,110.00 in contributions. Thank you all for your support for this important offering.

2022 CarePortal Mission – We are excited to help local families again this year with our 2022 CarePortal Mission Trip. What we love about doing CarePortal for our Mission Trip is that there is something for everyone. We will have 3 teams to help in different ways again this year so matter what your talent, there is a team for you.

- **Donation Team:** If you want to receive emails about what is needed for the families to see if there is something new or used that you can donate, perhaps the Donation Team is perfect for you.
- **Delivery Team:** If delivering the donated items and seeing up close how the donations impact these families seems like a way that you can help serve, then the Delivery Team might be perfect for you.
- **Prayer Team:** You can join our prayer team who will pray for the families, pray for our volunteers, and also the overall success of the mission.



Mark your Calendars!

Sunday, May 1st: Moment for Mission and Sign-Ups afterwards in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, May 15th: Another sign-up opportunity in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, June 5th: Join us for pizza and an introduction to our 2022 CarePortal Mission Trip
Thursday, June 9th – Sunday, June 12th: CarePortal Mission Trip

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Grace Njoku	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	6th
Everleigh Reeves	8th
Fran Gunter	11th
Christina Dzodzomenyo	12th
Suzie Payton	12th
George Wagner	12th
Michael McGrath	13th
Jon Lokensgard	14th
Sue Eisenklam	16th
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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Calendar Notes

May

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.

May

Men's Fellowship every Wednesday via ZOOM

May 4 & 18

Women's Bible Study

May 5

Preschool Spring Fling

May 9

Art & Faith Group

May 9 & 10

Circles meet

May 14

PW Spring Luncheon

May 15

Session meets

May 29

Monthly Food Drive

May 30

Memorial Day — Office closed



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

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Closed Friday

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Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director
Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**