

La Palabra

June 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from the Campus Reopening Task Force

Dear FPC Friends,

Blessings to you all during these trying and uneasy times. As you know, Session has been actively working with everyone's health and safety at the forefront since the "shelter in place" order took effect. While the campus closure had immediate and sweeping impact, the staff acted quickly to begin online devotionals and Sunday worship. What a blessing these talented and hardworking individuals have been and continue to be, and the regular messages and weekly services have provided a beacon of reassurance and calm when things around us sometimes seem to be whirling out of control.

The Campus Reopening Task Force was appointed to develop a strategy and plan for when and how we might be able to return to our church campus and the fellowship and activities we all cherish and miss. We wanted to take this opportunity to communicate - to the best of our ability - our approach and what this will look like as we reenter our life together.

We have been blessed with a comprehensive and very well thought out set of guidelines from Presbytery framed around the CDC guidelines for the private sector, which have been reinterpreted for application to churches and congregations. The Task Force agreed our deliberations would be guided by these guidelines, and our discussions, examinations & assessments, and decision-making criteria have been and continue to be based on the wisdom of that document. Anyone who would like to review these guidelines can find them on our [Presbytery website](#). We know the two big questions in everyone's minds are "When" and "How," and we hope to communicate as many answers to those questions as we can at this time.

WHEN?

The guidelines use a set of clear gating factors defined by the level to which the pandemic is being controlled, divided into three phases. Each phase is based on the foundation of Arizona having achieved a 14 consecutive day period of decline in the number of new cases of COVID-19. While the majority of our plans and preparations have been accomplished, we agree that we'll still need a one- to two-week readiness assessment period prior to beginning Phase One. Once the first goal of decline has been reached, our initial reopening date will be determined. Our ability to enter into Phases Two and Three respectively will be based on the next 14-day period of decline in new COVID-19 cases in the state.

HOW?

Phase One:

We want to be sure that our church is following all Presbytery and government health guidelines to protect the members of our congregation. With that in mind, we will begin reopening the campus with worship only: the sanctuary pews will be cleared; there will be no bulletins nor hymnals; and instead of passing offering plates, there will be clearly marked locations to continue to give your tithes and offerings. Masks will be required, and the congregation will be seated and dismissed by ushers using physical distancing guidelines. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to 90 people, and family groups will be able to sit together. If more than 90 are in attendance, livestreaming

INDEX

<i>A Message from CRTF</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Mission</i>	6
<i>June Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>In Memoriam</i>	7

will be available in Fellowship Hall. Congregation members who are age 65 or above are considered at-risk and are encouraged to wait until Phase Three of reopening; however, if you are in the vulnerable category, you are strongly encouraged to consult with your doctor prior to making a decision to attend in-person worship. We will respect your ability to self-regulate your attendance.

One pleasant surprise coming out of all of this has been the positive response to our online worship services. The services you have been watching have been pre-recorded using a single iPhone on a tri-pod and then expertly edited by Gregg Gerlach. This will not be possible when live worship resumes. With no physical bulletins, hymnals or Bibles, alternative media will be required. It is for this reason that the Task Force and Worship Commission have solicited proposals for the necessary and appropriate video and audio equipment to provide the optimal experience as we enter this new interpretation of how to worship in these new times. These same means of providing you the order of worship, hymn lyrics and Scripture text in the sanctuary will also facilitate our ability to continue to provide an inviting and fulfilling online worship experience.

Phase Two:

Phase Two will be much the same as Phase One with worshippers still observing physical distancing and wearing masks, with limited reopening of certain portions of the campus. Groups outside of worship will be limited to groups of 10 to 49, but still observing physical distancing guidelines and wearing masks. Worship will remain virtually the same as in Phase One.

Phase Three:

Worship will resume with fewer restrictions space-wise, but with masks still recommended until a vaccine has been developed, is available and being widely administered.

The details of reopening are complex, and the safety of each congregation member continues to be of utmost importance. We know that God will continue to walk with us through these uneasy times, and we trust that we are using His wisdom as we seek to safely return to the church and friends that we love and to offer back to God our combined voices of prayer and praise.

With prayers for blessings in His loving care,

Dan Reeves and Mark Ramsey, Co-Chairs, for the Campus Reopening Task Force
Ann Conklin, Sue Eisenklam, Chris McKee, Jeanne Partida, Karen Rudin, Dennis Sitzler

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

The Campus Reopening Task Force is planning for our safe return to the church. As a part of the reopening process, the Task Force took to Session the recommendation that we purchase cameras and projection equipment for our Sanctuary. Session has approved the project, which will improve our online video quality and allow for projection during our services. The estimated cost of the project is \$27,000, and about \$10,000 has been received. If you would like to assist with the project funding, please send to the church a check with memo notation “Sanctuary Video.” Thank you!

Announcements



Watch for a virtual choir on June 14th! Several members and friends of the Sanctuary Choir will present the anthem “How Will They Know” on Sunday, June 14th. If you would like to be a part of the video, please let me know! You will need a computer to play audio and a phone to record video.

There are more than 32.5 million choir members in churches across America, and collectively, they volunteer 8.5 billion hours every year. Our Sanctuary Choir members rehearse weekly and sing most Sundays of the fall and spring. For their outstanding commitment, I would like to recognize and offer special thanks once again to each member of the Choir: Dick Baird, Glenn Bennett, Cortney Bever, Marjorie Burgan, Mary Carlson, Paul Carlson, Carol Gerlach, Ellen Gillespie, Paul Green, Kay Herrera, Kristen Watson Hull, Don Kaelin, Gordon Letizia, Susan McMichael, Roma Naccarato, Brooks Newbry, Jane Potyka, Anita Ramsey, Ainslie Read, Nate Robinson, Ruth Robinson, Karen Rudin, Alice Schlak, Allan Schultz, Carol Strouse, Bea Towe, Barb Walker, Joan White.

Humoresque

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

A German Shepherd, a Doberman, and a cat have died. All three are face to face with God, who wants to know what they believe in. The German shepherd says: “I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to my master.” “Good,” says God, “then sit down on my right side. Doberman, what do you believe in?” The Doberman answers: “I believe in the love, care, and protection of my master.” “Aha,” said God, “you may sit to my left.” Then he looks at the cat and asks: “And what do you believe in?” The cat answers: “I believe you’re sitting in my seat.” [from Anita Ramsey]



Women’s Sunday was cancelled, while all of us in the church are distancing ourselves, to stay healthy. The circles met together in May with Zoom and finished our Bible Study year, “Love Carved In Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.” It was a study that brought up some new ideas and great discussions.

Covid-19 has hit the Navajo Nation very hard. Valley Presbyterian Church quickly organized a means for all Presbyterian Churches in the state to be able help in food, cleaning products and paper goods. PW joined the Mission Commission in their plans to participate. Grocery stores and other businesses joined in, also. It showed a picture of how one small part of the world can still make such an impact and difference in a person’s or even a nation’s life.



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

June Faith Formation Happenings

Congratulations to our FPC High School Graduates



Jade Fleener

Mountain View High School

In the fall will be taking college courses and working part-time.

Jack Fitzpatrick

Highland High School, Summa Cum Laude

Attending Northern Arizona University Fall 2020



Helen Letizia

Arete Preparatory Academy

Attending Northern Arizona University as a Physics Major

Will Snitzer

Mountain View High School

Attending Arizona State University as an
Engineering Major



WRAP Survey Coming Soon

Our WRAP leadership team will be emailing an online WRAP survey the first week of June. Please keep your eyes open and kindly respond as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your participation.

Montlure Camp Reimagined

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.

Camp Dates:

Junior High & Senior High (Grades 7-12) June 7-12 (**Montlure Registration Deadline May 31**)

Juniors (Grades 1-6): June 14-19 (**Montlure Registration Deadline June 7**)

Registration at <https://montlure.campbrainregistration.com/>



Montlure Campership Deadline Extended

FPC 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 1 week prior to the start date of camp and are available on the church website: <https://fpcmesa.org/montlure>](#) . (Extended dates: Junior & Senior High May 31 and Elementary June 7)

Faith Formation Resources

During this time of physical 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>.

Youth Sunday

FPC youth will be leading us in worship the week of Sunday, June 6th. We are planning on recording the service on Thursday, June 4th, at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please contact Chris for further details.

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.

In Christ,

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



Record temperatures and heat advisories are as much a part of Arizona summers as pool parties and barbecues. While we should all stay indoors between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., young, healthy minds and bodies need the stimulation of movement and play! First Things First, Arizona's early childhood agency, offers these tips to keep kids 5 and younger safe – and entertained – during the dog days of summer:

Bring the Play Inside

- Read stories, then let kids dress up and create their own tales. Many libraries offer story times, as well.
- Keep a list of activities you can suggest if kids become restless, like board games, craft projects, finger-painting and playing musical instruments.

Keep Kids Cool Outside

- Remind kids to drink something every 30 minutes or so. Water is best, but water-dense foods like fruit, yogurt, oatmeal, beans, and pasta are good, too.
- Choose the highest SPF sunscreen and apply on kids 30 minutes before sun exposure; re-apply often.
- Dress kids in lightweight cotton clothing that covers their arms and legs, plus sunglasses and hats.

Pool and Safety

- Keep kids within arm's reach, and don't assume anyone else is watching them.
- Install and maintain pool fences and gates.
- Search parks and community centers for free or reduced cost swim lessons.
- Never leave your child unattended in a vehicle.
- Always make sure all children have left the car when you reach your destination.

If you are interested in enrolling a child in our Preschool or want information on a Quality First scholarship, please contact me at 480-835-7877. Let's all stay safe and well this summer!

Shiloh Murillo, Director

MISSION

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

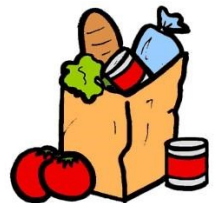
Fellowship (D) – Carol Strouse
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Dale Gibson
Mission (D) – Sue Eisenklam

Pentecost Sunday is May 31st, and we greatly appreciate any donation that you make. 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 and we have decided to use that money to fix the First Presbyterian Preschool slide. 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.”

Café Justo has been cancelled for this quarter. Since we are unable gather at church, the ability to deliver the coffee and get payment would be more difficult. If you would like to purchase your own, you can do so at <https://www.justcoffee.org/> and have it delivered straight to your home.

The Food Pantry has not missed one week of service to the needy. Please keep us who work in your prayers to continue to be healthy and serve this mission of the church.

We still need pasta, cereals and canned meat products. Please collect grocery bags for us. Call Sandy anytime to arrange to meet to donate bags. Our pantry receives most of our food from United Food Bank. One of their new requirements is to be computerized. So we are lucky to have God’s Tech Team, which is Betty and Karelle Reid-Hoefer. They have spent many hours putting data from applications into our system. They still have to train Sandy and our volunteers. Thank you Betty and Karelle! We are so grateful for your service and wish good blessings to you both.



The Navajo Nation Drive was a huge success thanks to all of you and everyone else who donated to this special drive. Seeing all of the items gathered at Valley Presbyterian, was incredibly moving. Every single item that was donated, will make a difference, so thank you. See the pictures below showing the food being gathered and prepared for transportation to the Navajo Nation.



June Birthdays



Renita Jurgensen	2nd
Ellen Hickey	3rd
Victoria Martin	3rd
Jan Smith	5th
Don Anweiler	6th
Gretchen Frederick	7th
Matt Hayball	7th
Zoe Garlin	8th
Shirley Martz	9th
Rosie Mills	9th
Ellen Gillespie	10th
Jack Oliver	12th
Todd Ramsey	12th
Grace Martin	14th
Joan White	14th
Bert Lanstra	16th
Cheryl Gregory	18th
Gail Soderquist	18th
Jack Gunter	25th
Richard Koch	26th
Ann Harbin	28th
Carol Anderson	29th

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.

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.



IN MEMORIAM

Larry Loraditch — May 16, 2020



Thank you to my church family for all the cards, calls and prayers I received during my recent health issues. They were very much appreciated. I am home now and hope to see you soon.

-- Lee Tobey

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

**First Presbyterian Church
161 North Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201
Phone: 480-964-8606**

E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

Website: www.fpcmesa.org

**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
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**