

La Palabra

June 2021

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Cor 12: 27)

Friends, God has brought us together as the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. It is not by accident that we have been formed into a faith family. This is God's design and purpose for our lives. God weaves together our various personalities, strengths, gifts, needs, and vulnerabilities into a special and unique design to accomplish God's purposes here in our community. Together we are the very body of Christ.

Scripture assures us that Christ has given us all the gifts necessary to be Christ's body. Our *Book of Order* has a lot to say about how we demonstrate these gifts in our life together ~ in our worship, our mission, our fellowship, and our faith formation. It is helpful to review this calling as we strive to live into being a community of faith, hope, love, and witness!

- The Church is to be a **community of faith**, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.
- The Church is to be a **community of hope**, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.
- The Church is to be a **community of love**, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
- The Church is to be a **community of witness**, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord. (F-1.0301)

This is indeed a lofty calling and one for which we require God's grace and guidance. We are coming out of a tough year and we need an extra measure of patience and understanding. My prayer is that God will continue to strengthen and sustain us as we move forward in our ministry together.

Many exciting things are happening here at First Presbyterian Church! Our campus is being used by outside groups who have a mission consistent with our own and ongoing partnerships may be developed. For example, Garden City Church is now meeting for worship in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoons and Rise Up (an alternative high school program) is meeting on weekdays in Fellowship Hall. As a church, we are deeply engaged with our community and supporting relationships that will grow good human beings and faithful disciples!

Thanks be to God for all that God is doing in, through, and among us!

~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) — Cheryl Gregory

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

**"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.
It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits." - Martin Luther**

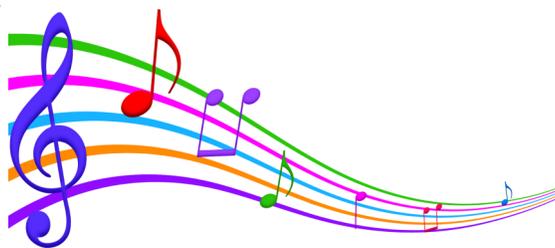
Summer Music has begun! Participation is open to one and all, and there will be opportunities for solo and ensemble singing, ringing, and playing! We will continue with one worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



Watch for another virtual choir on June 13th! The Sanctuary Choir will present the anthem "Shall We Gather at the River," arranged by Earlene Rentz. 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/tablet to record video.

Last month, I mentioned to the choirs that writing "Happy Mother's Day" on the Choir Room whiteboard is one of the annual joys of my music ministry. Sadly, we've passed another year when that has not been possible to share with the choir. BUT, we are moving in the right direction! The Choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary periodically during the summer months and sing in worship the following Sundays. We will be masked, but at this point, we hope to resume a somewhat regular rehearsal and worship schedule in the fall. Please join us!

It bears repeating that singing in a choir may just make you healthier(!), according to a study by the University of California, Irvine: "Researchers at the school found increased levels of disease-fighting proteins in the mouths of choir members after they sang Beethoven's choral masterwork, the *Missa Solemnis*. According to the study, a protein used by the immune system to fight disease, immunoglobulin A, increased 150 percent during rehearsals and 240 percent during performance. The boost seemed directly related to the singers' states of mind, which many participants described as happy or euphoric. "The more passionate you feel while singing, the greater the effect," said Education Professor Robert Beck, who authored the study with Thomas Cesario, Dean of the university's College of Medicine. The difference in the increased levels between a performance and rehearsal, scientists theorized, may be because the singers had achieved mastery of the complicated piece after often-stressful rehearsals and were enjoying the thrill of the performance itself." [Arizona Republic, March 2001]



Coming Events

- June 21-25 Day Camp
- July 7-11 Mission Week
- 2/13/2022: Worship led by The Blackwood Quartet, 10:00 a.m.
- 2022: 75th Anniversary of FPC!

Humoresque

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

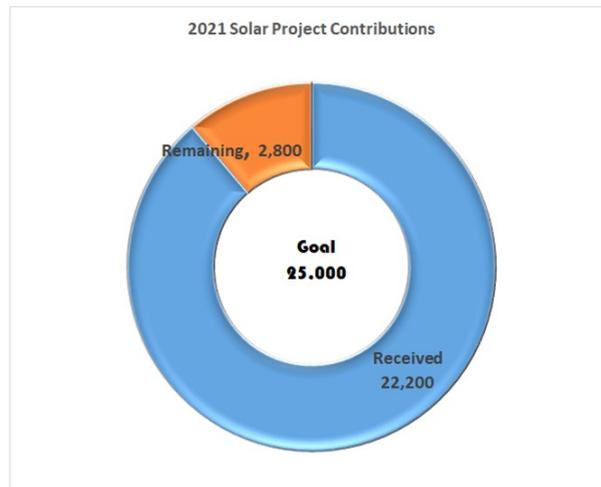
1. So... the Past, Present & Future walk into a bar... IT WAS TENSE! - Glenn Bennett
2. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion. - Graham Walker
3. I hate the key of e minor. It gives me the e-b-g-b's. - Miki Newbry
4. Today I noticed that the cover of my ironing board was wrinkled, and I laughed at the irony. Then I laughed again because of the word "irony." - Anita Ramsey
5. On our 25th wedding anniversary, I took my wife to Hawaii. On my 50th, I'm going to go back and get her. - Jack Oliver
6. The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple but with extremely limited memory. Just 1 byte, then everything crashed. - Allan Schultz
7. Singing in the shower is all fun and games until you get shampoo in your mouth, then it becomes a soap opera. - Dick Baird

ADMINISTRATION

Property (E) (Chair) — Dave Frederick
Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

Personnel (D) — Carol Anderson
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Michael Gerlach
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Brent Gregory



SOLAR UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we are sooooo close to our goal of \$25,000!

As of last week slightly more than \$22,000 has been raised, funded by small, medium, and large contributions from 15 families. FPC continues to be blessed by a supportive congregation that steadfastly maintains this giving pattern over the years.

In anticipation of the next step I have been researching installation contractors. After reviewing some of your suggestions, and a myriad of ratings and reviews, I selected 10 worthy candidates and reached out for more information. After several companies reported that they didn't work in the east valley, didn't work on commercial installations, or only worked with APS or SRP not our provider, Mesa Electric Utility, this list was whittled down bit by bit.

The end result is about four companies with strong reputations and performance over the long-term. I am in the process of scheduling estimates from each one of them and hope to make a thoughtful selection by the end of this month.

David Frederick

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding
Youth Elder – Ben Gerlach

June Faith Formation Happenings



Day Camp Count Down! The much-awaited Day Camp is just about here on **JUNE 21st-25th**. TDC is for children completing K-5th grades. We cannot promise there will be space available on the day camp starts, so please sign-up today. Register: Montlure.org

Campership Deadline Nearing! Partial camperships are **\$50.00** for church members are available on our church website. Please submit your application by Sunday, June 6th!

Volunteers & Donations Needed for Day Camp. Traveling Day Camp is quickly approaching. We are requesting volunteers for the Clean-up Crew June 21-25, 3:30-5:30 p.m. FPC will share in the meal cost for the Montlure staff and volunteers. Please donate to our dedicated fund account through PayPal on the Discipleship portion of the website: <https://fpcmesa.org/discipleship>. Please contact Chris for further details: chris@fpcmesa.org



Montlure Overnight Camp

Senior High: June 6-11 (*Camperships due 5/23*)

Junior High: June 13-18 (*Camperships due 5/30*)

Juniors: July 5-9 (*Camperships due 6/20*)

Register at Montlure.org. Partial camperships are **\$350.00** for church members are available on our church website. Camperships due two-weeks prior to each camp.

Weekly Youth Gatherings. Our junior high and high school teens gather most Sundays at 11:15 a.m. in the youth room. Join us for God talk, prayer and fellowship!

FPC youth will be going bowling at Fat Cats on **Sunday, July 25th, 11:30-3:00 p.m.** Enjoy two-hours of bowling and food/drinks for around \$28. Please turn in permission forms and money no later than Sunday, July 11th, to secure your spot. Permission forms are on the youth section of the website. Please contact Chris for further details.



The Koinania Women's Class, Karen Rudin, Facilitator, is going to have a Summer Series that will refresh your souls and deepen your spiritual walk. Starting June 6th, we will study Mark Batterson's book called "Whisper" which will help us better discern the still small voice of God in our walks. The second half of the summer we will study the book "You Are Never Alone" which will help us to understand how God is walking with us and our constant source of help. Koinania meets on Sundays at 3:30-5:00 (through Zoom). Contact Karen, 480-233-1043, if you would like to attend.

2021 Confirmand

Congratulations to Aaron Chesko our 2021 Confirmand! Aaron will serve as FPC's Youth Elder on the Mission Commission. Way to go!

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



What a beautiful ending to a challenging school year for our Preschool families! We celebrated by inviting the families to come to our end of year Spring Fling and family picnic. It was a special time for the children to sing songs for their families and enjoy the weather before it gets too hot. The Holy Spirit was definitely present that day!

I am so proud of the teachers and the dedication that they have given to this school year, the children and the families at First Presbyterian Preschool. It was not easy to navigate through the COVID-19 Pandemic with constant changes in Health Practices or any other unforeseen challenges that arose. These teachers stepped up in a way that showed their grit, determination and compassion for the youngest in our community. I am so blessed to be a part of such a strong team!

Please help spread the word about our little Preschool! We are going to be doing tours through the month of June on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays between 9:00-1:00 for those families who would like to know more about enrolling in our program. Children must be potty-trained before their first day of school. The new school year will begin on August 9th this year!

I hope you have a wonderful summer and are able to feel God's great love for you! We are very blessed in the preschool and love being a part of the First Presbyterian Church ministry.

Thank you!
Shiloh Murillo



MISSION

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

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

2021 Mission 2021 – We are very excited about the upcoming Mission event that we have chosen for 2021 which is **Care Portal Mission Week**. Care Portal Mission Week will be from July 7th – July 11th. Care portal is a wonderful ministry that connects children's needs with churches. A letter was sent the week of May 24th asking for your help and support. Our goal is to have the entire church join one of the teams listed below.



1. Prayer Team – We need as many people as we can praying for these families, the volunteers, and the overall success of this Mission Week. It is completely free and a great way to help.
2. Donation Team – Most of the items requested from the Care Portal don't need to be new. You might have something gently used in your house that you no longer use that would be extremely appreciated by these families. If you sign up for this team, you will be alerted to the items that the families need, and if you can help with one of the needs, let us know.
3. Delivery Team – We are going to put teams together to deliver the items to the families. We can use team members who have a vehicle and others to join the drivers that can help deliver the items to the families.

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, June 13th: Moment for Mission during church and the date we are requesting forms to be returned. There will be a sign-up table after church where we can answer any additional questions you may have.

Sunday, June 27th: Kickoff event - this event should be fun and a great way to gather with your fellow volunteers.

Wednesday, July 7th – Sunday July 11th: Care Portal Mission Week!

Monday, July 12th: Mission Week wrap up event.

As we continue in the planning process, more details will be announced. Please mark these dates in your calendar. We are extremely excited for this mission opportunity and hope that you will join us.

New Ministry Coming this FALL! Please start to save hangers and clothes in good condition for our new Clothes Closet that will be launched in September! We will gratefully accept clean, gently used clothing.

I-Help volunteer needed to host 15 women on the 5th Sunday of the month (4) times per year (typically January, May, August or July and October) arrival time is 6:00 p.m. Duties would include unlocking fellowship hall, place bottled water and lunch items on table and provide dinner (store bought or volunteer prepared). If interested, please call Janet Verch (480) 218-1357. Thank you!

June Birthdays



Heather McKee	1st
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

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.

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

Ann Conklin: pastor@fpcmesa.org
Mark Ramsey: choirs@cox.net
Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Don Krill: buildings@fpcmesa.org
Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Weaver, Dave & Karyn
28399 N. Welton Place
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

Calendar Notes

June

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
In person or online

Youth meet at 11:15 a.m.
Youth Room

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Men's Fellowship

June 2 & 16

Women's Bible Study
Library

June 13

Session meets

June 20

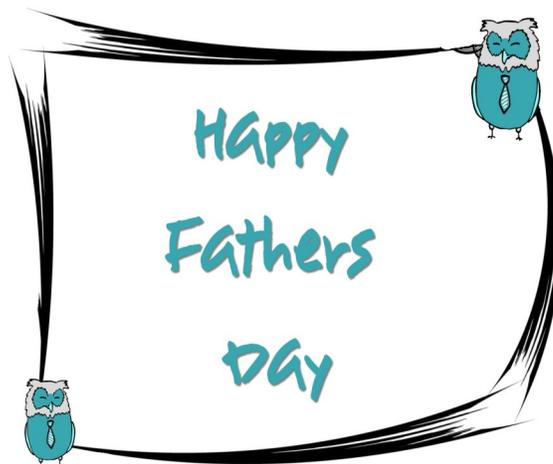
Happy Father's Day!

June 21-25

Montlure Traveling Day Camp

June 27

Monthly Food Drive
Mission Week Kick-Off



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

LA PALABRA

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**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**