

La Palabra

June 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Graduation... A process, not a destination



When we recognized Ayden Hickey's graduation, a child announced that she too was graduating! And at the sound of her voice, I realized that we are all graduating at the same time! We are a church being revitalized, and that means that we are graduating from one dimension of church experience to another!

Ayden grew up in the church, and we watched him live through all the stages of life from his baptism to college, from Sunday school to service; and as we watched, we too were being brought to the threshold of adventure where we now find ourselves. We are reorganizing our operating system, and realigning job descriptions ~ changes that will surely call for new learned behavior patterns for the church family ~ and that is the very nature of being a revitalizing church.

Ayden was clearly seen by a child to be a role model, even as we all are. I remember when Charles Barkley declared that he didn't want to be a role model, he just wanted to play basketball! We smile at the apparent disconnect because those who live bigger than life in the spotlight cannot separate themselves from the adulation and imitation that they inspire in others.

But in the family of Christ ~ where meekness is strength, humility is powerful, faithfulness is noble, grace is courageous, self-sacrifice is inspirational ~ the Lord uses us as role models most effectively when we are least aware of it.

So it is that from his baptism to his graduation, Ayden has quietly and faithfully grown into the life of the church, and we have witnessed his transformation with joy and gladness. We wish him well as his adventure continues on the ASU west campus. We already know that he will be blessed by the opportunities before him, and that he will be a blessing to others without ever needing to brag about the way the Lord is using him.

Congratulations, Ayden! The Lord who nurtured you at First Presbyterian Church Mesa is also waiting to welcome you to ASU West! Enjoy the great adventure before you.

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

The May mystery band member stumped us all. Bea Towe was our mystery musician! Here is the June contestant. Send guesses to music@fpcmesa.org, and as usual you're invited to send your old band photos to share in a future issue.



Summer Music will begin on June 4th, and there will be opportunities for solo and ensemble singing, ringing, and playing! We will worship together on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall from June 4th through our Labor Day Sunday Hymn Festival! *[One exception: July 9 Worship will be held in the Sanctuary.]* If you would like to participate in one of the summer groups, please leave a message at music@fpcmesa.org or (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103, and music will be ready for you. Together, let's share a joyful song unto The Lord.

While I have begun to reduce my hours on campus, I have begun co-hosting a regional planning committee for an organ festival which will be presented in the valley during the summer of 2025. The event will attract musicians from eleven western states, Australia, and several nations of the Far East, and at least one event will likely be held on our campus. Many concerts/events will be open to the public and will be advertised to our congregation!

A black poster with gold text and graphics. At the top, a large, thin gold circle is partially visible. Inside the circle, the word 'Southwest' is written in a cursive script. Below it, the words 'CHAMBER' and 'CHORALE' are stacked in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the circle, the word 'PRESENTS' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the word 'FANFARE!' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text 'WITH MUSIC FROM DAN FORREST, BILLY JOEL, OLA GJEILO, AND MORE' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, the date and time 'SATURDAY JUNE 3RD - 7:00PM' and the location 'FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 161 N MESA DR' are written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Humoresque

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

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple was involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting, they began to wonder; could they possibly get married in Heaven? When St. Peter arrived they asked him if they could get married in Heaven. St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out." The couple sat and waited for an answer . . . for a couple of months. While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons: "If we're allowed to get married in Heaven, should we get married?" "What if the marriage doesn't work out? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?" Another month passed. St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven." "Great!" said the couple. "But we were just wondering; what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?" St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground. "What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple. "OH, COME ON!" St. Peter shouted. "It took me 3 months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how long it'll take to find a lawyer?"

Coming Events

- 6/3 Southwest Chamber Chorale Concert, Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.
- 6/18 Father's Day

fpcmesa.org/worship



Dear Friends at FPC,

I have good news to share with you good people who stood beside and behind me from the time I was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2022 and when I nearly died (according to the surgeon) in emergency surgery in January: both the blood tests I took at the oncologist's office and the recent PET scan showed *no sign of cancer*—thanks be to our ever loving Father in Heaven and the many prayers you sent to Him! And I am healing from the surgery as best I can, another reason to thank Him! I felt Jesus was with me in my trials every time one of you sent a card with a message of hope, called me or John, sent texts or emails, visited me at the health care or in my home, sent or brought me special gifts like Gana's burden bear, whatever you did to let me know you cared. And I appreciate my faithful, hard-pressed husband John, who was with me every day of the six weeks I was away from home; he carried on with the tasks there and was very concerned. Bless you all!

~ Jan Peterson

Dear Members of FPC Mesa,

This church has meant so much to our family for so many years. A daughter's marriage was held here. Grandchildren and great grandchildren were baptized here. Our father retired from here and then served as Pastor Emeritus. He loved this church so much.

We are also discovering how much you loved him. Your thoughtful gestures, your generous gifts have meant so much to the family. It has been very difficult to say goodbye to such a wonderful man, but your heartfelt love has made it that much easier.

From the bottom of our hearts thank you,
James R. Bruening family

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children’s Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko
 Youth/Young Adult (E) — Ian Harding

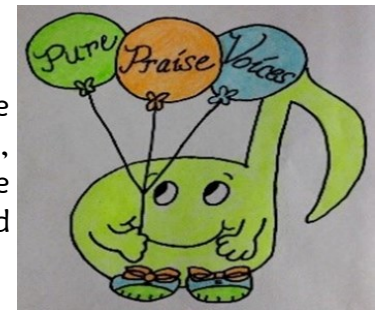
June Faith Formation Happenings

Sunday School Opportunities

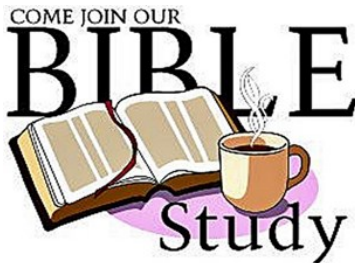
AGE	LOCATION	CURRICULUM
Children on Summer Break May 28-September 3		
Adults	Library	Bible Discussion



Our Children's and Youth Sunday School program is on summer break until our fall kickoff on September 10, 2023.



Pure Praise Voices on Break. Pure Praise Voices is taking a break for the summer months. We will resume on August 9. The PPV Theater Camp, which was going to be June 12-22, will be rescheduled for the fall. Please contact PPV Director Karen Rudin, 480-233-1043, if you’d like to sign-up your child.



Koinonia Women's Bible Study. The Koinonia Women's Zoom Class, which meets on Thursdays from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Koinonia is studying the book *Overcomer*, by Dr. David Jeremiah, which describes 8 ways to live a life of unstoppable strength, unmovable faith, and unbelievable power. Women, if interested, contact Karen Rudin, #480-233-1043.

Montlure Overnight Summer Camp

Senior High Camp June 20-25, 2023
 Junior High Camp June 27-July 1, 2023
 4-6 Grades July 5-9, 2023

Register at Montlure.org. Partial campership available on our church website. Applications must be submitted 2-weeks prior to camp.





TRAVELING DAY CAMP

JUNE 26-30
@ MISSION DEL SOL

9am - 3pm*

*FRIDAY 9:00-12:30

\$125 USE CODE **FPC2023**
FOR **\$75 OFF**

FOR CAMPERS
ENTERING 1-6TH GRADES

REGISTER NOW

Montlure.org



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

Just for Laughs....

There was a man who wanted a job as a salesman in a men's clothing store. The owner didn't want to give the guy a job, because he didn't think he would be right for it. Yet, the man came back day after day asking for a job. One day, because of the man's persistence, the owner decided that he could use a break, and it was dinnertime – a time least likely for customers to come into the store. So, the owner told the man, "I'll give you a job on one condition: you must sell this one suit that's been hanging here on the rack for years. This suit is hideous. If you can sell this suit while I go out for dinner, I'll give you a job for life. You'll have to be a great salesman to sell it." The owner went out to dinner knowing that nothing would happen. When he arrived back at the store, the owner was shocked! There stood the man – his clothes were torn, and he had scratches on his face and his hands. He was bloody. His hair was all messed up. He looked like a wreck. The owner asked, "My goodness, what happened?" The man replied, "I sold the suit. I've sold it, so now I've got a job for life." The owner asked, "What do you mean you sold the suit, it looks like the guy didn't like it?" And the man responded, "No, no the guy loved it. But, his guide dog nearly killed me."



Our PW inspirational and heartwarming year was culminated with our Spring Luncheon on May 13, 2023. As always, the salads and desserts (and more) were delicious and enjoyed by all. We were blessed with nearly 50 attendees, and at least half were guests from other churches, relatives celebrating Mother's Day, and community friends of FPC. As always, we are especially honored to have friends from our congregation join us and hope they'll consider giving PW a try in the next year!



Our guest speaker was Joan Campbell from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Joan gave us a realistic overview of current scams and fraud schemes that threaten our safety and security. Although alarming, it was beneficial to know what's going on, how to hopefully prevent it, and what to do if one becomes a victim. Paul Soderquist told a brief story about the powers of prayers and mothers, especially when combined.



Carol Gerlach beautifully presented "The Lord's Prayer" in sign with Greg's assistance. Many thanks to all who helped make this luncheon a huge success.

Circles are on hiatus until September when our next year's Bible Study, Sacred Encounters, will be launched with the promise of an enriching spiritual journey studying Luke-Acts.

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



2023 Mission Trip

We are very excited to be able to partner with Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, AZ (near Chinle) once again this year. Our primary purpose is to continue to praise Jesus as we build relationships. The main focus of the trip is to put on a Vacation Bible School in the mornings with the help and excitement of Montlure. The afternoons will be for preparation and cultural experience/interactions. Please see Shelley Cronenberg if you are interested.

Upcoming Dates to be aware of:

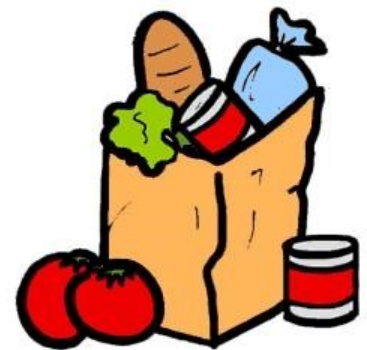
- June 25: Commissioning of all going June 25: Participant Training/ Trip Orientation (Final Payment is due)
- July 2: Travel to Tseyi Bidaa, Montlure Informational Training over dinner
- July 3-7: Mornings: Montlure Day Camp 9:00-1:00 Afternoons: Preparation for next day, cultural experience/ interactions
- July 7: Family Evaluations and Travel Home
- July 11: Potluck Gathering to Celebrate and plan for Sunday Presentation

Café Justo quarterly orders are back and are available for signups on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please get your order in for this delicious coffee by June 25th when the order will be placed.



Clothing Closet is currently open at the same hours as the Food Pantry which is the 1st and 3rd Friday from 8:00-9:00 a.m. We plan to expand the hours in the Fall, but need more volunteers to do that. Please let Susan Chesko know if you are interested in volunteering.

Food Donations are Needed for the Food Pantry. Please bring food donations on Sunday or to the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted. Examples of food to donate: canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soup, cereal, peanut butter and more! Thanks!



ADMINISTRATION

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

Personnel (D) — Roma Naccarato
Nominating (E) — Marcy Snitzer

Nominating (D) — Anita Ramsey
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Brent Gregory

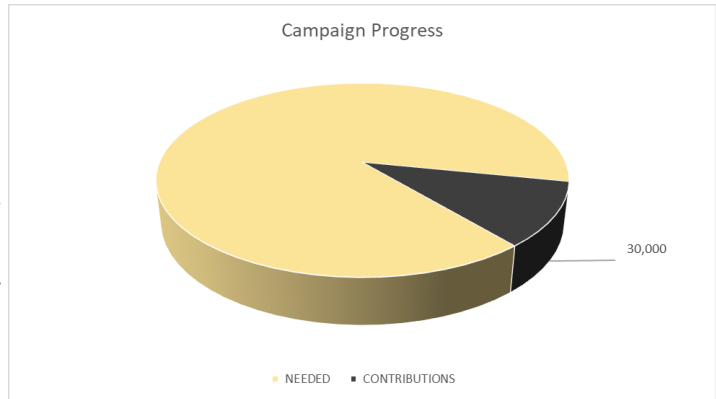
PROPERTY UPDATE

Our capital campaign is on track with \$30,000 given or pledged so far. Thank you to the early givers who have come forward and supported this important project. Recall that the paving bid we have selected is \$250,000, with an option to add additional safety lighting for \$30,000 more.

A smooth, well-lit lot will make our church more presentable and add to the attractiveness of the neighborhood. Imagine the difference at the next community carnival this fall when we host it on a fresh new surface!

Here's where we can have a little fun. The lot holds about 200 cars and we have about 50 people in church on an average Sunday, which leaves 150 spaces for future visitors. I'm asking 150 people to give an extra \$1,000 which would be dedicated to a future visitor.

David Frederick, Property Elder



From the Clerk's Desk — News from the MAY Session meeting



- Session approved the April Session Meeting Minutes and the April Financial Reports.
- Our membership as of April 30 is 236 having lost Jim Bruening, Sharon Schroeder, Carol Stirling and Gail Wylie.
- Average worship attendance for April was 115 in-person and 80 online. In April 2022 we celebrated our 75th anniversary, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter and the average attendance was 178 in-person and 112 online.
- Session approved a Reorganization Manual. We will be returning to a Committee format instead of a Commission format starting in June.
- Session approved new Job Descriptions for staff. These descriptions were reviewed and approved by staff prior to being approved by Session.

COMMISSION NEWS

Administration – The electrical service box for the CE wing is now up to Code and the new air conditioners can be installed. The Preschool bathrooms are being updated.

Discipleship – Based on the Wednesday WRAP Survey, it was decided to put WW on “Pause” for the 23-24 school year.

Fellowship – The potluck on May 28th will be BBQ hamburgers and hotdogs.

Mission – **HELP!** The Food Pantry is only open the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8:00 a.m. We no longer receive food from the United Food Bank and our pantry is in great need of canned vegetables, fruit, tuna fish, chicken, toilet paper, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, etc. In other words – everything!

Worship – During the summer months (June thru Labor Day) we will be worshipping in Fellowship Hall.

June Birthdays



Heather McKee	1st
Renita Jurgensen	2nd
Ines McGrath	2nd
Ellen Hickey	3rd
Victoria Martin	3rd
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
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.



IN MEMORIAM

Allan Schultz — May 16, 2023



Calendar Notes

June

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In person or online

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

June 3

Gail Wylie Memorial Service

June 4

Deacons meet

June 18

Father's Day

June 18

Session meets

June 20-25

Senior High Montlure Camp

June 26-30

Montlure Traveling Day Camp

Mission del Sol

June 27-July 1

Junior High Montlure Camp

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



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Closed Friday**

**David Hodgson, Interim 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**