

La Palabra

June 2024

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Christian

“...and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it”
— Revelation 21:24b

It is long been said that, “You can not take it with you.” I have done a number of memorial services in my years as a pastor, and I can safely say there was never an armored car that accompanied us to the cemetery. And yet, there is the verse above that talks about people coming to populate heaven. They do bring something with them; their “glory.” What is that about?

It has been long thought that humans were commanded by God to create culture. This specific verse has been understood that we humans bring the best of our culture with us into heaven. I find this a fascinating truth that prompts me to consider what cultural things we might bring with us into heaven. Might the list include songs & hymns, games, sports, art, cultural celebrations, culinary traditions, and more? What would you add to the list?



While on the recent mission trip to Honduras, I talked about this concept in my breakout session. I told the young ministry volunteers and staff that we are short on kings and queens these days. However, I suggested that they were culture-makers in their communities as they seek to create safe and vibrant spaces for young people to flourish in the midst of Christ’s love for them in stark contrast to the broken and dysfunctional communities in which they minister. They are contemporary kings and queens that will bring the best of their culture into heaven.

What of FPC Mesa? What will be our cultural addition to heaven? How are we hearing and responding to God’s call to create? How are we paying forward

the love and Good News that we have in Jesus Christ? I am encouraged by much. In just the last 24 hours I have had table fellowship twice with members and elders at our church. I have watched as volunteers built the “Blessing Bags” from items donated by church members. I participated in food pantry pick-up at the local food bank. I have sat with worship leaders and planned for summer worship of God. What a pleasure to see faith, joy, and love put into action in a regular way, weaving together the tapestry of our community. What glorious threads might we add to our tapestry this month as we head into summer?

Blessings!
Pastor Christian

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From the Clerk's Desk

News from the **MAY** Session meeting.

Clerk's Statistics for **APRIL**

No weddings, births or baptisms or deaths.

Membership: **190**, unchanged

Avg. Attendance: 84 in-person & 64 online = 148

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Reports/Motions

Strategic Planning Committee gave an update on the results of the questions they asked.

The Garden City church is asking for a larger room for their Sunday School.

The Ghana church is no longer meeting here because they needed a larger room and we don't have one.

Et cetera

Don't forget - **PER CAPITA** for **2024** is \$38.51 (unchanged from 2023). \$23.71 for GC Presbytery, \$5.00 for the Synod of the Southwest and \$9.80 for GA. The amount we owe, based on our 12/31/22 membership of 240, is \$9,242.40. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone would be able to/could pay their own per capita.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

PRESCCHOOL

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE SINCE 1986

We are currently offering Early Registration for the new school year. The preschool will be celebrating its 38th year in August, and we 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. We will be open on Monday thru Thursdays in June to offer tours to families interested!

The 2024-2025 school year will start on August 5. We have lots of space in our PreK classroom!

Thank you for all of your support, love and prayers this past year! It has meant so much to me and my teachers to have such a loving church community!

Shiloh Murillo, Director

Worship

Summer Worship will be in Fellowship Hall from now through Labor Day (September 1st). We'll have a variety of seating options from tables and chairs to sofas, a high-top table and even some bean bags. Plan to get there in time to grab your favorite coffee or other drink before worship to take with you to your seat of choice. Please join us as our Worship adventure continues, and we explore the ways in which we can praise the Lord and pronounce our faith in Him!

Volunteers needed:

- There is a great opportunity available to help our members and friends. One or two volunteers (or more!) are needed to help coordinate receptions for funeral/memorial services.
- We are compiling a list of volunteers willing to help occasionally with Communion preparation. This usually takes no more than 45 minutes to an hour on Communion Sundays before worship.

If you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you toward either of these ministries, please contact Dan Reeves for further information.

Eight men from First Presbyterian gathered May 18th for a day retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center, and they were joined by one member from Gilbert Presbyterian Church and another from Chandler Presbyterian Church. The group enjoyed lunch together with several FRC retreats that day, and they were beautifully led through prayer walks and prayer talks by Jeff Seehorn, Jack Oliver, and Paul Soderquist.



Our Spring Luncheon was an appropriate, heart-warming culmination of our PW year. We welcomed guests from at least five other PWs and other friends, totaling 48 in attendance! (We continue to try to convince men they would be SO welcome at our luncheons!) Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated, thanks to Jean Chappell. The interesting and informative program was provided by Chris Casanova, our moderator of PW of Synod of the Southwest. Her slideshow highlighted the activities of the USA Mission Experience, a PC(USA) nation-wide mission trip which Arizona was privileged to host this year. The trip exposed non-desert dwellers to the beauty of our geography; eye-opening experiences resulted from firsthand activities on the Mexican side of the border at Agua Prieta, provided by Frontera de Cristo, our mission partner. The work the staff and volunteers provide to support humanitarian efforts for migrants, local children and others is immeasurable!



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Circles completed our thought-provoking study for this year, Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. Next year's Bible study is called Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by Patricia K. Tull, which promises to be thought-provoking and probably a bit challenging! While we are ever welcoming to ladies who can join us, we extend a special invitation to a **new circle which will meet on Monday evenings!** More information will be available in late summer.



At this time, FPC PW anticipates taking a hiatus from special events for a year, although stay tuned for future developments! Circles will continue to meet for fellowship and Bible study! ALL ladies are welcome!



Many, many thanks to all of you who came to the celebration of my 80th birthday and who have sent me birthday cards. A special thanks to Darlene and Dennis Sitzler for hosting the celebration at their house and Susan Chesko and her crew for organizing and helping with the party. I feel very blessed to be a part of the FPC family.

Blessings, Jeanne Partida

Mission

Distribution of Blessing Bags will be Monday, June 3rd, or Wednesday, June 12th, at 9:00 a.m. If you can help deliver, please meet in Fellowship Hall, and we will organize groups.

The next Community Dinner will be on Wednesday June 5th. We will serve chicken salad sandwiches, chips, fruit and a dessert. Join us for fellowship and to meet new friends and neighbors. Remember to sign up to help with the dinners on July 3rd and August 7th. This is a great outreach to our neighborhood!

Bringing Montlure Back to Life – A Labor of Love

For those of you who have spent some time at church or Bible camp in your youth (or later), you know just how special and life changing that experience can be. Montlure is one of those special camp places. Nestled in the pines and mountains near Greer, Arizona, many of you know that Montlure suffered damage from the Wallow fire in 2011. Like the rebirth of the forest, Montlure is being restored by the work of generous volunteers. Campers will once again be able to enjoy God's beautiful location this summer!

FPC members have participated in two work camps this spring. They include Mike, Stephanie, Gregg, and Ben Gerlach. Dave, Gretchen, Aaron, and Andrew Frederick. Marcy and Sean Snitzer, Bob and Ginny Mallia, Christian and Kristen Johnson, and Michael and Ines McGrath. Other folks helped last summer as well.

Some of the projects worked on recently include the following: A tent platform was constructed; the chapel area was cleaned up and new bench seats installed. A Gaga ball court is close to completion. Lodge windows, microwave, and kitchen supplies were deep cleaned, and an ice machine installed. Work was done in the shower house and on a shower in the nurse's cabin. Things were moved and dumped, and work was done on the Montlure van.

A big thanks to everyone who gave their time and talents in helping to bring Montlure back to life! If you would like to contribute financially to this continued effort, you can go to <https://www.montlure.org/greer/> for more information.



Discipleship

Children's Sunday School is taking a break until Kick-Off Sunday in September.

Montlure Summer Camps

Overnight:

Senior High Camp	June 2-7, 2024
Junior High Camp	June 10-15, 2024
Junior High 2 Camp	June 17-22, 2024
4-6 Grades	June 25-29, 2024



Traveling Day Camp

June 10-14, Mission del Sol Church, Tempe

montlure
Traveling Day Camp

June 10-14

Monday - Thursday
9am to 3pm
Friday 9am to 12:30pm
Extended Care Mon-Thur until 5pm

\$75 off with Code FPC2024
Lunch is included

Just for Laughs...

A Baptist preacher and his wife decided to get a new dog. Ever mindful of the congregation, they knew the dog must also be a Baptist. They visited kennel after kennel and explained their needs. Finally, they found a kennel whose owner assured them he had just the dog they wanted. The owner brought the dog to meet the pastor and his wife. "Fetch the Bible," he commanded. The dog bounded to the bookshelf, scrutinized the books, located the Bible, and brought it to the owner. Now find Psalm 23," he commanded. The dog dropped the Bible to the floor, and showing marvelous dexterity with his paws, leafed through and finding the correct passage, pointed to it with his paw. The pastor and his wife were very impressed and purchased the dog. That evening, a group of church members came to visit. The pastor and his wife began to show off the dog, having him locate several Bible verses. The visitors were very impressed. One man asked, "Can he do regular dog tricks, too?" "I haven't tried yet," the pastor replied. He pointed his finger at the dog. "Heel!" the pastor commanded. The dog immediately jumped on a chair, placed one paw on the pastor's forehead and began to howl. The pastor looked at his wife in shock and said, "Good Lord! He's Pentecostal!"

Fellowship



Friday, August 9, 2024

Faith & Family Night, presented by Chick-fil-A, returns to Chase Field on Friday, August 9th, when the D-backs host the Philadelphia Phillies. This year's event is highlighted by a postgame concert by Casting Crowns!

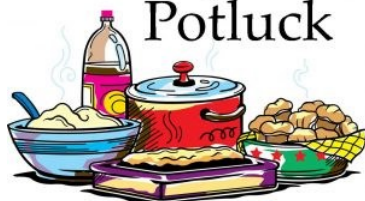
Please join the Arizona Diamondbacks for a night of baseball, fellowship, and music. Come out and support your D-backs as we take on the Phillies in an NLCS rematch.

Annually, we host over 150+ churches and Christian-based groups from all over the Valley at this event. Faith & Family Night is the best way for church members, friends, family and music fans to enjoy a D-backs game!

Faith & Family Night will feature:

- Postgame concert by Casting Crowns
- Discounted tickets to D-backs vs. Phillies game
- D-backs Player Testimonials + Q&A

Monthly Potluck



Since we are having summer worship in Fellowship Hall, the monthly potlucks will be taking a break until September.

Upcoming Event: We are planning the return of a favorite event...the ice cream social on August 26th. Watch for further information in the weeks to come!

June Birthdays



Heather McKee	1st
Renita Jurgensen	2nd
Ines McGrath	2nd
Ellen Hickey	3rd
Victoria Martin	3rd
Ken Brause	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
Kristen Johnson	17th
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.

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

Christian Johnson: pastor@fpcmesa.org
Mark Ramsey: music@fpcmesa.org
Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org
Shiloh Murillo: preschool@fpcmesa.org

Calendar Notes

June

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

Christian Education:
Children are on a break until September
Adults at 11:30 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday
Clothing Closet donations taken 1st and 3rd Sunday

June 2-7

Senior High Camp at Montlure

June 2

Deacons meet

June 3 & 12

Distribution of Blessing Bags

June 5

Community Dinner

June 10-14

Montlure Traveling Day Camp

June 10-15

Junior High 1 Camp at Montlure

June 16

Happy Father's Day

June 17-22

Junior High 2 Camp at Montlure

June 23

Possible Session Meeting

June 25-29

Grades 4-6 at Montlure

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

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