

La Palabra

July 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Be still and know that I am God! (Psalm 46: 10)

Psalm 46 is one of my very favorite Psalms, and verse 10 is often a much-needed reminder to be still in God's presence and bask in God's love, grace, and mercy. This reminder comes to us after the Psalmist proclaims boldly God's ever-present help in times of trouble! In this scenario, the earth is changing, the mountains are shaking, and the nations are in an uproar! Does this sound familiar?

This has been a particularly difficult season of life for very many of us. Our lives, our routines, our jobs, our education, and even our worship have all been turned upside down. Life as we knew it has been disrupted and we can't be sure when, if ever, what is comfortably familiar will return.

Thus far, COVID-19 has not only taken the lives of more people than died throughout all of WWI, it has also revealed deep divisions and disparities in our country, and our nation is indeed in an uproar. These are troubling times. There is much we as a nation and we as a church need to confront.

I will address the issue of racism during the month of July, focusing our attention on the many ways systemic and structural racism is deeply embedded into many aspects of our society. We will consider racism in housing and healthcare; in employment and education; in our prison system and even in our churches.

Our denomination has a wealth of resources to help guide us in this endeavor. I am very grateful for passionate and visionary leaders who have paved the way. Did you know that even the recent locations of our General Assembly were selected based upon an awareness of racism in our country? As Christians, we cannot bury our heads nor shield our hearts from the suffering of our fellow human beings.

Yet, even in the midst of entering into, empathizing with, and doing our best to understand in order to help transform this legacy of suffering, God is in the very midst of it. God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in these troubling times. God will guide us. God will lead us. God will be in the midst of the city – and of the church – and help it when the morning dawns. This is the promise of our good and gracious God! The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

May God's grace and peace truly prevail on earth!

In Christ's love and service
~ 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) — 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

Thank you to all who multitasked as they sang, operated cameras, and worked as sound operators with other virgin venture virtual vocalists! It was quite a learning curve for all. If you missed the Virtual Choir during worship on June 14th, there's still time! The entire service is posted on our [FPC blog](#), and the anthem is posted at fpcmesa.org/worship-resources and on our church "FPC Mesa" Facebook page.

As mentioned in the June *La Palabra*, Session has begun a search for camera and display equipment for our Sanctuary. Based on current bids, the minimum project cost is \$27,000, and almost half has been received (\$13,245). If you would like to assist with the project funding, please send a check to the church with memo notation "Sanctuary Video." Thank you!

Update on Campus Reopening

Dear FPC Members and Friends,

We miss being together, and we are anxious to return to our campus for worship! We continue to regularly monitor the reopening guidelines from our [Presbyteries](#) (revised June 1, 2020), and we remain among the vast majority of churches within our Grand Canyon Presbytery who continue to follow the guidelines and remain closed. To give each of us a glimpse of how things will look when we return, here is a summary of high-priority items which will help to keep each of us safe and healthy:

- Masks will be required.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at each entrance.
- Ushers will seat everyone, and all will be dismissed via the same door they entered (north, south, or east doors).
- Every other pew will be roped off.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet will be maintained, but families may sit together.
- Pews and pew racks will be empty, and no bulletins will be received.
- Offering boxes will be available at each door to receive our tithes and offerings as we leave the worship service.
- Projection in Fellowship Hall will be available for overflow attendance.
- To facilitate Contact Tracing, congregational pictures will be taken each Sunday. In the event someone tests positive for Covid-19, everyone in attendance that week will be notified.

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

Humoresque

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



Baseball in the Bible: In the big inning, Eve stole first. Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel, and the Giants and the Angels were rained out.
[from Barb Walker]



Each year, since 1962, the Presbyterian Women of our church have selected a deserving member of our congregation as an Honorary Life Member of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church USA. Honorary Life Memberships are rooted in tradition that began in 1912. A contribution is made in honor of our selection to help support the training of women for future leadership in the church.

This person is chosen by those who know of his/her commitment to Christ and the mission of our congregation. Our 2020 Honorary Life Member recipient is **Anita Ramsey**. There is so much that can be said for all that she has done in the classroom and in the church to influence the lives of many children, of all ages. She did this by being a teacher, an elder, a deacon and an example for children to follow. Her music contributions included different choirs, handbells, the yearly musical productions; together with participating and supporting Mark's job as Director of Music Ministry.

Anita raised two children through this time and is loved, respected and appreciated through-out the church. **Thank you, Anita, for all of this, and much more.**

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE



JUST FOR LAUGHS

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed into the meeting and shouted, "The building is on fire!" The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed. The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?" The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings. The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil. The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damages. The Jews posted symbols on the doors hoping the fire would pass. The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!" The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!" The Episcopalians formed a procession and marched out. The Christian Scientists concluded that there was no fire. The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report. Meanwhile...the secretary grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire!

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

July Faith Formation Happenings

Faith Formation Resources

During this time of social 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>.

Children's Church Care Packages

We miss worshipping together in person as well as seeing the children in church and Sunday school every week. The Discipleship Commission is in the process of putting Children's Church care packages together, which will include Christ-centered activities to enjoy with your child at home. We will keep you posted through FPC's weekly email news when the Children's Church Care Packages become available in the coming weeks.



Welcome Incoming Youth

In mid-July, I will be mailing a welcome letter to invite the incoming junior high students into our youth group. Going into youth group is a right of passage for many, and I want to make sure they feel welcomed and at home. Even though I have a list of some incoming youth, I am inviting parents to email me their child's name and address so I can personally invite them. Please feel free to provide the name of any youth 7-12 grade who wants to participate with our youth program. It is important that we include everyone.

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. *There will be no Youth from July 5-12, while Chris is on vacation. Our online youth class will return on Wednesday, July 15th.* Please contact Chris to obtain the Zoom meeting number and password to enter. Chris@fpcmesa.org

Midweek Youth on Zoom

Youth are invited to join our midweek youth gathering on Wednesday evenings via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. *There will be no Youth from July 5-12, while Chris is on vacation. Our online youth class will return on Wednesday, July 15th.* 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) — Deborah Rosen

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

Pentecost Sunday has passed, but we are still accepting offerings. This offering focuses on the youth, and we as a church get to choose where 40% goes. As the Preschool slide is currently broken, we decided to use our portion to help fund the replacement of that slide so that the FPC Preschool and Head Start children can enjoy it again. Thank you to those who already donated. We should have another update for you in the August La Palabra.

The Food Pantry is busy every week serving those in need. We are doing well but still need pasta and cereals. A big thank you to all who gave plastic bags. We received many and appreciate the collection.

Our staff is computer trained, and it is so nice. However, we need a lap top that we can use. Please call me at 480-835-1338 to get details.

Please pray for our service to continue in this important mission of our church.

~Sandy Clark



July Birthdays



Sharon Schroeder
Ruth Landers
Marcy Snitzer
Tate Posthumus
Anne Schafer
Kevin Reeves
Virginia Leigh
Linda Hayball
Jo Throckmorton
Jessi Smith
Kristen Hull
Mark Waters
Andrew Frederick

2nd
3rd
3rd
4th
5th
10th
11th
12th
13th
14th
15th
15th
17th

Ruth Letizia 17th
Brielle Reeves 17th
Carol Stirling 17th
Skyler Verch 18th
Eileen Brause 19th
Ian Harding 19th
Matthew Skarphol 19th
Mary Jean Maedche 22nd
Fernande Anderson 23rd
Ben Gerlach 23rd
Freda Homolya 24th
Amie Alvarado 25th
Mack Coulter 25th
Tom Watson 25th
Chaz McInnelly 27th
Demi McInnelly 28th
Jackie St. Louis 30th

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.*

Calendar Notes

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 or listen to the announcements during Sunday worship for updated information.



IN MEMORIAM

Tom Dye — June 13, 2020



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LA PALABRA

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

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Chris McKee, Minister of Faith Formation

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James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus