

La Palabra

July 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Sunset, Sunrise

Last year at this time I was in Iceland with my daughter, Jennifer, creating some new memories together. We intentionally chose the third week of June because we wanted to witness the beauty by which a sunset becomes at once a sunrise!



For a couple of weeks in June the sun never sets on Iceland. It sits on the horizon for a moment or two, spreading its colors across the sky and then begins to rise again. And at least for human eyes it's impossible to distinguish between a sunset and a sunrise because they are simultaneous events.

The birds, however, seem to be a lot more aware of nature's mystery, because as the sun sets, they stop their chatting, and when it begins to rise, they start chatting all over again. It is as though they do not want to miss announcing the start of a new day even though it is shrouded in mystery.

What more appropriate image of our interim transition! It is a time when endings become new beginnings, and tasks completed inspire new tasks to be done, and old familiar patterns of church life discover that they can be part of new activities reborn!

In the musical *Fiddler on The Roof*, there is a wonderful song titled *Sunrise, Sunset*, in which a lifetime is measured by the passing of time between every sunrise and sunset. Perhaps if you close your eyes and listen you can still hear the old fiddler singing: *Sunrise, sunset, Sunrise, sunset, Swiftly fly the years, One season following another, Laden with happiness and tears.*

But the song we sing in interim transition should be called *Sunset, Sunrise*, because we're not measuring the seasons of life, but a beautiful moment of transition from one experience of being a church to another. And so beautiful is that moment, that it's impossible to distinguish where one stage ends and another begins, for they are all part of the same beautiful mystery.

Yet, maybe somewhere in glory, the birds know when to stop their chirping, and when to begin chirping all over again.

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

In an English choir, a Chorister was originally defined as a boy singer (“Choirboy”). Now, the Chorister broadly encompasses all young singers. Our FPC chorister program, “Pure Praise Singers,” grades K-8, will return in the fall and will follow the schedule of our Wednesday WRAP family program, which will begin on September 7th. If you know of potential choristers for the group, please let me know!



FPC has been blessed with a new soundboard for our Sanctuary! The board is up-to-date with current technologies and blends nicely with our new livestream equipment. If you'd like to join our AV team, please contact the Church Office. The soundboard is quite an upgrade from our previous board. View meters on every audio channel greatly simplify and improve sound operation. They also limit over/under mixing of the audio signals and offer an entertaining light show! With the availability of hundreds of possible soundboard settings, the most attractive feature on the new soundboard is the ability to capture a quick snapshot of all settings. When the occasional, unintended tweak of settings causes things to go awry, a simple settings restore brings things back decently and in order. Many thanks to Jan and John Peterson for this beautiful gift to our worship ministry!

Lastly, another reminder of our Sunday [Order of Worship](#) and [Worship Recordings](#) and other [Worship Resources](#).

Coming Events

- 7/3 Independence Sunday
- 9/4 Hymnfest
- 9/11 Kick-Off Sunday

Humoresque

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

A weary evangelist knocked on a door, expecting to have it slammed in his face. Sure enough, the older woman who answered, angrily demanded that he leave at once. When she figured out why he was there, she went to slam the door. The door, however, bounced back open, and the woman shouted, “Get your foot out of my door!” The evangelist began, “But ma’am...” The woman again went to slam the door in his face, and it again it bounced back open. The woman yelled, “I said get your foot out of my door!” and tried to slam the door again only to have it again bounce open. The evangelist put up his hands and said: “But ma’am...” only to be cut off with the woman screaming in rage: “Don’t talk back to me! I want you off my property!” She tried to slam the door a fourth time, and it bounced open a fourth time. The evangelist beat a hasty retreat saying: “Ma’am, you’ll be able to close your door if you move your cat out of the way!”

DISCIPLESHIP

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

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

July Faith Formation Happenings



Montlure Traveling Day 2022 @ Mission del Sol

The week of June 20 was amazing as 24 elementary age campers descended upon Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church in Tempe for our East Valley Church Camp. The campers representing FPC were Nicolette Arvallo, Matthew McKee & Brielle Reeves. TDC was blessed to have Ayden Hickey and Isobel Letizia as camp counselors. Thank you to all who have supported Montlure Traveling Day Camp and Overnight Camps.



Our Children's and Youth Sunday School program is on summer break until our fall kickoff on September 11, 2022. The Adult Study will continue to meet for the first couple weeks of July and will go on break until September. The Children's Pray & Play area in the sanctuary will be available during worship. Have a fun and safe summer.

July Youth Fellowship Event! Our next youth fellowship event is Sunday, July 31st, following church. We are still firming up the details and considering Arrow Tag at Brainy Actz or Glow Golf at Fat Cats. Please stay tuned to weekly email updates for further details. Regardless of where we go, Junior High, Senior High and recent High School grads are welcome to attend. Please contact Chris to join the fun!



Ministry Interest Survey. How can God effectively move us to our fullest potential to benefit the life of the church? We are inviting everyone to participate in our Ministry Interest Survey regardless if you worship with us in-person or livestreaming. The survey is a vital tool during this interim season as we see how the light of Christ is reshaping us here in Mesa and beyond. Please click the hyperlink or call the church office to request a paper survey. <https://forms.gle/Unwfh7KWXHfD2eBs6>

Faith Formation Calendar:

- Children's Sunday School Teacher Orientation, August 14, 11:30 a.m. Chris' Office.
- WRAP Leadership Orientation, August 17, at 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Dinner Included.
- WRAP Fall Kickoff, Wednesday September 7, at 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.
- Children & Youth, Adult Sunday School Fall Kickoff, September 11, at 11:20 a.m.

First Presbyterian Preschool of Mesa is now hiring. Looking for someone in the Early Childhood Education Faith-based Preschool industry for the position of Preschool Teacher in Mesa, AZ.

Please click on link to apply:

<https://aztoolkit.acquire4hire.com/careers/details.json?id=47416&source=17>

Blessings,

Chris McKee, Minister of Faith Formation

chris@fpcmesa.org



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

The Food Pantry needs your help! In the past, United Food Bank helped us source most of the donations needed to help us run our Food Pantry. We recently lost these food donations and could really use your help. If you prefer to donate money, please make sure to put Food Pantry in the memo line of your check. Please feel free to bring with you the following items which are now collected every Sunday:

- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- A protein (canned chicken, tuna, chili, etc.)
- Toilet Paper is also requested regularly



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Pentecost offering raised \$1496.39 for this wonderful special offering that helps our youth. 40% or \$598.56 will go to Montlure to help them rebuild their camp in Greer. 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.” Thank you for your generosity.

2022 CarePortal Mission Success! A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s CarePortal Mission Trip! Without your help, none of this would be possible. We helped five families and a total of 19 children. Below are their stories.



- Rachel has six children. Some of her oldest went to our FPC



Preschool. While pregnant with her 6th child, she was laid off and just recently found another job. She is working hard to provide for her family but needed a little help. Her original request was for \$500 to help with rent. We were able to help her get in touch with our very own Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) to help her with rent. In addition, we helped her with clothes for all six kids, toys, a stroller, two handmade quilts made by our members, and a bouncy seat for the baby, and diapers and wipes. She was very excited to see all the wonderful donations.

10-year-old son. He was happy to do it, but his main concern was being able to cover the new additional expenses. We had very generous church members who caught him up on his late APS and assisted him with a month of rent which totaled \$2400! Additionally, we were able to help him with a twin bed, bedding, clothing, shoes, and toys. His message for our church members is, “I am very appreciative and thank you for your prayers and would love for you to continue to pray for me and my son.”

- Sarai is living with her three daughters and is a migrant worker. Her eldest daughter has disabilities and needed help obtaining medical bands to help her walk. She also needed shoes and baby supplies for her newborn baby. We were able to provide all these items along with clothes, toys, diapers, wipes, and cleaning supplies for this family. She was so thankful for everything that we provided. The incredibly neat thing was that this delivery team (that drove over an hour each way to this family’s home) not only made a relationship with this family, but also developed a new friendship with each other.



- Ivory is a grandma who recently took over full custody of her granddaughter. The granddaughter was removed from her home in Texas due to neglect. Ivory needed help with bedding and clothes. We provided the bedding as well as an abundance of new and gently used clothes, along with toys.



Her response to our congregation was, “Thank you for your prayers. If I can make a request it will be that God will Bless me with His wisdom for my new journey ... 🙏🙏 And yes, you all did make a Big difference in our lives....Thank you God. Bless you all. 🙏🙏🙏”.

- Caroline is a mother of eight who we are still working with. She needed car seats to keep her children safe. Thanks to the Child Crisis center for providing the car seats for her. We will continue to be in contact with her to assist her in obtaining the car seats.



My family and I want you to know how much we appreciated your prayers during Graham’s illness. Your thoughts and concerns following his death have been a comfort for us.

Barb Walker and Family

July Birthdays



Sharon Schroeder	2nd
Marcy Snitzer	3rd
Tate Posthumus	4th
Anne Schafer	5th
Kevin Reeves	10th
Virginia Leigh	11th
Linda Hayball	12th
Jo Throckmorton	13th
Mark Waters	15th
Andrew Frederick	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
Jeff Seehorn	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.



IN MEMORIAM

Nuha Ghubril — June 22, 2022



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Letizia, Gordon
New cell #: 480-274-5617

Uithoven, Marilyn
604 S. Evergreen
Tempe, AZ **85288**
(Zip code change only)

Wallen, Don
2002 W. Sunnyside Dr., #1303
Phoenix, AZ 85029
602-314-6218

Calendar Notes

July

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

Food Donations taken every Sunday

July 4

Office Closed—Independence Day

July 5-9

Montlure Overnight Camp—
Grades 4-6

July 31

Youth Event

That's all! It's July!

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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Website: www.fpcmesa.org

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
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
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**