

La Palabra

July 2024

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Christian

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.
Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight.
He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.
— Romans 3:23-24 NLT

For a week in June I was the chaplain at Montlure Camp in Greer when we hosted the second group of junior highers. Based on the preselected curriculum chosen for the summer, each day we explored a different “link,” such as love, grace, acceptance, being present, etc. Grace was one of the ones that the camp counselors were challenged to convey to the campers in their small groups.

I think part of the challenge is the age of the campers. It can be a challenging concept to wrap a 12 year old's mind around. I think the other challenge is that our sense of grace and gratitude needs to be grounded in our humility in the face of our own inadequacy and the amazing gift of redemption and new life we have in the Gospel. Put more simply, it is hard to appreciate the answer to the problem, when we don't know what the problem is in the first place.

I think Paul sensed the reality when he was writing to the Christians in Rome. Hence his Epistle to the Romans brought both realities together in the passage above. Doing so brings both foundational concepts into focus.

Our reformed style of worship tries to bring both of these facets together each week with the confession as well as the presentation of the Gospel in the sermon, hymns and songs, and more. That is all good and well for Sunday, but we need both on Monday, Tuesday, and every-day.

As we have officially crossed into summer, I encourage us all to keep reminding ourselves of these key concepts. There are a variety of ways to do this kind of thing. Keeping Scripture as a part of our summer (and every season) reading helps. We have lots of examples of people facing their brokenness as well as experiencing the redemption we have in Jesus. My suggestion to the camp counselors was to read the Gospel according to Luke. He includes lots of people on the edges of communities that are acutely aware of these entwined realities. I invite you to join me in taking my own advice this summer and beyond.

Blessings,
Pastor Christian

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From the Clerk's Desk

News from the **JUNE** Session meeting.

Clerk's Statistics for **MAY**

No weddings, births, baptisms or deaths.

Membership: **188**, Roma Naccarato and Freda Homolya were removed from membership

Avg. Attendance: 88 in-person & 73 online = 161

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Reports/Motions

Session welcomed new members to our congregation – Kristen Johnson, Taidan Johnson (in absentia), Ella Johnson and Linda Zeiler. They will be recognized in worship on July 7.

Brooks Newbry discussed the Strategic Planning Committee's June report which the church officers will be discussing in depth during their Annual Retreat in September.

From the Mission Commission – the date for the Trunk or Treat Event will be October 26 from 3:00 to 5:30.

From the Fellowship Committee – sign-up for the Diamondback game will begin in July. There will be an ice cream social in August.

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.



Help-Wanted

FPC is searching for a Setup-Custodian, a part-time position. Candidate is available Sunday mornings/afternoons and as needed. Assumes responsibility for staging, setup and tear down within campus buildings, sweeping/mopping and ensures exterior doors are locked. Interested candidates contact the Director of Operators for a complete job description: chris@fpcmesa.org

Worship

We've had a great time worshipping in Fellowship Hall so far this summer! Oh, sure we've had a snafu here or a glitch there, but thanks to our nimble sound crew, an able worship team and a ready staff who produced printed lyrics in a flash (just before they appeared on the screen!) all in all things have gone well.

The Fellowship Commission's refreshment trams jumped to the ready and have made sure there are ample beverages and snacks - sweet AND salty - available before, during and after worship. But most of all, things have gone as well as they have because of the cooperative and understanding spirit of our congregation. So here's a collective "Thank You!" for helping make this summer's worship experience meaningful in so many ways.



FPC MESA FACTOID:

Based on a recent survey, about 1/3 of those surveyed consider themselves “night owls,” 1/3 identify as “early birds,” and the remainder were somewhere in between.

Use your used name tag to place your vote on the notepad on the easel in the back of Fellowship Hall each week to give your input (and dispose of your name tags in a fun way).

Welcome to July in Arizona!





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

Shiloh Murillo, Director

As the new school year approaches and school supplies go on sale, please remember that July and August are the time for the Preschool School Supply Drive. There will be a container in Fellowship Hall on Sundays and in the office during the week in which to put your donated supplies. The Preschool wish list is below. Thanks for your support of First Presbyterian Preschool!



School Classroom & Supply Wish List

- 64 oz Bottle of Bubbles
- 5oz paper Dixie Cups
- Snacks - individually wrapped & healthy
- Small Paper bowls
- Small Paper plates
- Washable markers
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Paper towels
- Glue sticks
- White school glue
- Card stock (white or colored)
- 8x11 white copy paper
- Magic Eraser Sponges
- Colored pencils
- Colored Dry-erase markers
- Watercolor paint trays
- Facial tissues



Mission

The next community dinner will be a potluck on Wednesday, July 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Many people will be out of town, so please try to come if you are able! For more information, contact Anita Ramsey.

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

The cost will be \$44 per ticket this year, and the seats will be in Section 135. These seats are on the main level so there are no stairs to climb. This is a great price for a Diamondback game PLUS a Casting Crowns concert! See Erin Skarphol for more information or to reserve your tickets! Play Ball!

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!

July Birthdays



Marcy Snitzer	3rd
Tate Posthumus	4th
Anne Schafer	5th
Kevin Reeves	10th
Virginia Leigh	11th
Linda Hayball	12th
Jo Throckmorton	13th
Andrew Frederick	17th
Brielle Reeves	17th
Skyler Verch	18th
Eileen Brause	19th
Ian Harding	19th
Matthew Skarphol	19th
Mary Jean Maedche	22nd
Ben Gerlach	23rd
Tom Watson	25th
Chaz McInelly	27th
Demi McInelly	28th
Jeff Seehorn	30th
Betty Jean Reid-Hoefler	31st

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

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Cline, Caroline
 6945 E. Main St.
 Bldg. 2, Apt. 2127
 Mesa, AZ 85207

Homolya, Freda
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 Bellingham, MA 02019

Calendar Notes

July

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

July 3

Community Dinner

July 4

Office closed
 Happy 4th of July!

July 7

Deacons meet

That's it because it's July!



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

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**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Closed Friday**

**Christian Johnson, Pastor
Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries
Chris McKee, Director of Operations
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper**