

La Palabra

August 2021

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God. (Rm 12:2)

The leaders of our congregation have been faithfully discerning the will of God and leading us through this very difficult season of life and ministry. I am deeply grateful for each one and for their work together. Please keep them ever in your prayers and make time to say a word of thanks or send a note of gratitude as the Spirit moves you!

The Elders and Deacons will meet together on Saturday, August 14th, for our annual retreat. This is a time of sharing ideas and vision for what our ministry will be in the future. I always enjoy this time with the leadership team and am energized for the fall by all of the wonderful ideas that are generated during our time together.

Session has decided that we will continue with one 10:00 am worship service going forward into the fall. After much prayer and discussion (over the past couple of years), it became clear that God was calling us to worship together as one body. The hope is that this will draw the congregation closer together and folks will come to know one another better. The service will be a blend of both previous services with a rich variety of music and liturgy. We've experimented with this throughout the summer and look forward to continuing this in the fall.

The Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

- 10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 Fellowship time
- 11:20 – 12:00 Education for all ages

I am excited that this new schedule allows me to teach adult education classes on a rotating basis. Beginning September 12th, which is our kick-off Sunday for Choirs and Christian Education, I will lead a two-part class on the "Nuts and Bolts of Being Presbyterian" as it seems a good time for a refresher on our theology and polity. We will then delve into a series on "Half Truths of the Bible," which will be explored both in worship and education.

Look for more information in the September La Palabra and consider participating in a class or two, even if this might be new for you! I look forward to learning and growing in faith together!

To God be the Glory! ~ 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) — Cheryl Gregory
Worship (D) – Sheilah Dye

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

**"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.
It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits." - Martin Luther**

Our annual Hymnfest will be held on Labor Day Sunday, September 5th. We'll have a prelude-hymnsing, and we'll enjoy hymns from our new "Glory to God" hymnal. Arrive early for our hymnsing, and let me know if you would like to assist as one of our service song leaders, playing a rhythm instrument, singing, or ringing handbells.

We have been blessed to receive a 100 year old Steinway M Series Piano from Jack and Fran Gunter. The piano was enjoyed by Fran's family for most of those years, and now we welcome it into our church family! As it is being prepared for an inaugural recital next year, we will enjoy its music in special services and during the weekly preschool chapel time!

The Sanctuary Choir will begin early next month, and we would love to have you join us. Our welcome-back rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and we'll have our first Sunday in worship on Kick-Off Sunday, September 12th. (Please visit our worship website, fpcmesa.org/worship, for links to each of our choirs and to our choir schedule.) In addition to offering music for most of our fall and spring worship services, the Sanctuary Choir enjoys off-campus retreats, monthly social events, and special performances. Above all, they enjoy serving our Lord through His gift of song!

Mark your calendars! The remaining summer worship music will include:

August 1 — HolyGrounds Praise Band
August 8 — Piano-Organ Duets
August 15 — Cornerstone Gospel Quartet
August 22 — Soloists
August 29 — Sanctuary Choir

As we return to our fall schedule, Sunday worship will continue at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary!

The FPC LogRam Small Group will return this fall. The group plans to meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. If you would like to join the group, please give me a call at the church (480-964-8606, Ext. 103). We love to laugh, to learn about God, and to learn how to share His Word.

Ice on trees will bend many a branch to the point of breaking. Similarly, I see a great many people bowed down and crushed by their afflictions. Yet every now and then I meet someone who sings in affliction, and then I thank God for my own circumstance as well as his. There is never a song more beautiful than that which is sung in the night. You may remember the story of a woman who, when her only child died, looked toward heaven as with the face of an angel and said, "I give you joy, my sweet child." That solitary, simple sentence has stayed with me for many years, often energizing and comforting me. — Henry Ward Beecher

Coming Events

- 9/5 Hymn Festival
- 9/12 Kick-Off Sunday/Dedication of Chancel Furniture
- 10/3 World Communion Sunday/Hymnal Dedication
- 10/31 Reformation Sunday/All Saints' Sunday

Humoresque

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

There's a new virus going around. It is called C-Nile. Even the most advanced programs from Norton and McAfee cannot take care of it, so be warned. It appears to affect mostly those of us who were born before 1960. Symptoms of C-Nile Virus: 1. causes you to send the same email twice; 2. causes you to send a blank email; 3. causes you to send it to the wrong person; 4. causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you; 5. causes you to forget to attach the attachment; and 6. causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the [from Marj Burgan]

ADMINISTRATION

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

Personnel (D) — Carol Anderson
Nominating (E) — Marcy Snitzer

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

Solar Update

Let's start with some exciting developments on the solar panel project at FPC. We have selected Arizona Solar Wave to install our system because they earned high ratings in several categories from utilities and customers alike. The final price to permit and install 30 panels and an inverter came in at \$24,375 which is slightly higher than the \$22,900 raised so far. This means we still need your contribution to avoid dipping into other accounts.

I met with the engineering team and walked them through the locations of boxes, breakers, meters, and switches to help them decide where various components will be located. The good news is that we are able to connect the photovoltaic array to our main meter using existing underground wires and not have to dig additional trenches. (This pleasant outcome arose from the need to install all new wiring following an electrical fire a few years back. Sometimes real life quotes a Bible verse, so check out Romans 8:28.) The team collected information needed to apply for city permits, which I'm told is the longest part of the process. Once approved by the city, Arizona Solar Wave tells me they can install the system in one day, which they estimate can happen by the end of August.

One final note about the City of Mesa. I have learned that there is no more city money available to help pay for solar installations. That program ended last year but their website wasn't updated when I announced the proposal to the congregation. This would have reduced our cost by about \$4,000 but as stated above, your contributions have put us within \$2,000 of the final undiscounted cost. Please contact me if you have any concerns about your donation to this.

The Resources Committee of Grand Canyon Presbytery invited me to discuss the project at their meeting on July 22nd. Members were very interested in my presentation and posed some thoughtful questions. Apparently, other valley churches are considering solar as well. In the end, they passed a motion in support of our efforts and wished us well.

I am grateful for your continued interest in the project in support of this worthy effort.

-David Frederick

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko
Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding

August Faith Formation Happenings

Kid Pray and Play Space. The Discipleship Commission is proud to announce the new Pray and Play space in our beautiful sanctuary. Pray and Play is a kid friendly space where children can be themselves during worship. The kiddos can enjoy games, puzzles, crafts, Bible stories within a comfortable environment specifically designed with kids in mind.



Worship
Revive
And
Praise



Wednesdays
5:30 -7:00 p.m.
www.fpcmesa.org

Orientation for WRAP Leaders. All WRAP leaders are invited to join us for a brief orientation to discuss the 2021/2022 program on Wednesday, August 11th, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Pizza, salad and drinks will be provided.

WRAP Relaunch. The start of school means WRAP is right around the corner. WRAP is an intergenerational midweek program that includes supper, worship and Christian education for children, youth and adults. We are launching our fall block Wednesday, September 1st, at 5:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. We are excited to be using the new Presbyterian program Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.

Children's Church Open House. Do you have an interest to help out in children's church? Please check out the Discipleship table in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Time following worship on Sunday, August 22nd and August 29th. Come discover how you can help out with our children's programming on Sundays and/or Wednesdays. No prior experience necessary. We will provide tours of our remodeled Sunday school rooms.

Kickoff & Christian Education Sunday, September 12th. Join us during our 10:00 a.m. worship on September 12th as we kickoff a new Sunday school year, present third grade Bibles and commission our Christian Educators and Preschool teachers. Please contact Chris McKee if your child is entering the third grade so we can present them a Bible. Kickoff Sunday is a big day at FPC, and we hope you can worship with us.

Meeting for Youth and Parents. FPC youth and parents are encouraged to join us for an important meeting regarding our Junior and Senior High programming on Sunday, August 15th, at 11:20 a.m. in the Youth Room. Donuts will be provided!



Youth Fellowship Restarting. FPC Youth group kick-off is Sunday, September 12th, at 11:20 a.m. in the youth room. Junior and Senior High students are encouraged to join us for Christian fellowship, games and God talk. More details to come!

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



Wasn't July the most beautiful Monsoon season this year? We are getting ready to welcome the families of our little preschool back soon. The new school year is just around the corner, and we still have many spots open for your child, grandchild, neighbor or friend's kids. The first day of school is Monday, August 9th. Our Meet the Teacher event will be on Thursday, August 5th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We could use your help. Please send anyone with children 3-5 years old to the Preschool for a tour today. There are scholarships available for free or reduced tuition for those who qualify. Preschool office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-1:30, and we can be reached at preschool@fpcmesa.org or by calling 480-835-7877.

If you are interested in donating items for the preschool, please see the list below or in the church office. We are always looking for help and support with this list. It is so greatly appreciated! Thank you!

May the change in seasons bring a new spirit of joy to your family and home. Sending our best from the preschool!

Shiloh Murillo, Director

School Classroom & Supply Wish List

- 64 oz Bottle of Bubbles
- 3oz or 5oz paper Dixie Cups
- Snacks - individually wrapped & healthy
- Small Paper plates
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Old Newspapers
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Paper towels
- Glue sticks
- White school glue
- Card stock (white or colored)
- Foaming Hand Soap refill liquid
- 8x11 white copy paper
- Magic Eraser Sponges
- Washable markers
- Thin markers
- Colored pencils
- Colored Dry-erase markers
- Watercolor paint trays
- Facial tissues

MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg
Pastor — Ann Conklin
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark
Assimilation (D) — Deborah Rosen

Mission (D) — Sue Eisenklam
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Dale Gibson
Youth Elder — Aaron Chesko

Mission Possible: Mission Success

This Mission Trip was different from those in the past. It may not have been a “trip” the way we normally think of it, but it had a lot of the content. We helped people in need. We made a difference in the lives of others. And those same people made a difference in ours. We helped 10 families and 25 kids. The impact that we made over the days during Mission Week may never fully be known, but I believe that God called us to use CarePortal for our mission this year and that with the help of so many, we were able to really make a difference. Mark 10:45: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

There are many reasons why kids end up on CarePortal needing help, and I would like to share the story of a couple.

Family temporarily in Arizona were sleeping on the floor.

This family is in Arizona to reunite with their teen child. The father is fixing up a home where they are staying in exchange for their room and board. The other four children were sleeping on the floor and needed five air mattresses for these four and their oldest sibling with whom they are reuniting, as well as sheets, and a microwave while they get back on their feet. We were able to help this family with everything that they needed, and we also provided them with some popcorn for their microwave, a gift card for groceries and a soccer ball.

A teenage girl lost her mother and needs clothes.

One of the kids we helped was a 17 year-old child being cared for by her grandmother after her mother’s recent death. The grandmother has a very limited income and the teenager was on CarePortal in need of clothes. At the Mission Possible: Wrap Up Event, we gave everyone index cards to share their favorite part of mission week or how they feel they made a difference, and I would like to share one of the responses that we received. “I made a difference by donating clothes to a teenage girl. Teenagers love clothes! I hope that she was pleased. I was glad to help and am willing to do it again.” This teenager was blessed with a lot of very cute clothes and also a Target gift card to pick out shoes.

These are just two stories of the ten families that we helped, all in different stages in their lives and needed help for different reasons. In the Wrap Up event, we asked people to answer one of these questions: What is your favorite part? How did I feel like God was working in me? How do you think that you made a difference? Here are some of the comments from the volunteers.

- Prior to delivery, we would call the person because addresses were not on the houses. I called the last person on the delivery and she lived in a flat behind the main house. She came out to meet us and her first words were, “Hi, I’m a Christian!” What a greeting!
- Favorite Part: To see so many come together to help those in need. It is what we are called to do.
- That we were helping people who needed to be assisted. I was on the prayer team and felt God was helping those who needed assistance.
- I enjoyed seeing the posts on Facebook, the people being served, knowing others are serving him, and prayer.
- Favorite Part: being given the opportunity to help people who truly needed it, but how may have been overlooked?



- Favorite part: 1. Seeing smiles on kids and mom's faces. 2 That one mom was so overjoyed.
- How do think that you made a difference? We provided something a family needed.
- How did I feel like God was working in me? I knew God was working in me because I gathered up towels and a set of sheets to donate. It might help a family in need – I know it will help me.
- I feel God worked in me as a pray-er because I know God answers prayers, big and small, and especially if it is in His character to answer prayers or to work to help the needy and downtrodden, the desperate, and outcast people.
- I was moved by the immense ambition and energy invested by the leaders group and look forward to doing more in the future.
- I wasn't able to join in the activities of church – but I prayed daily for the success of this mission event.
- Best – getting everyone involved in the CarePortal. Love that the entire church was involved.
- I loved the teamwork and how this mission experience allowed so many people to be involved. I loved playing with the little ones during delivery.
- I can't explain the feeling that I had when I walked into the youth room and saw how much had been donated. It truly warmed my heart.



If for some reason, you were not able to participate or maybe you participated, but still want to help, Ellen Hickey is the leader for the CarePortal ministry here at FPC Mesa. Her goal is to help at least one family a month, so **it is not too late to help CarePortal families**. If you are interested, please let her know that you want to receive emails and want to help with donations or deliveries. A special "Thank You" needs to be given to Ellen Hickey, Sue Eisenklam, and Robert Harding for taking leadership roles in this year's mission. Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped by praying, donating, or delivery because without your help, this would not have been possible.



August Birthdays



Frank Thompson	1st
Charlotte Roberts	3rd
Gordon Letizia	4th
Verna Green	5th
Todd Verch	6th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ayden Hickey	8th
Ann Conklin	9th
Mike Chesko	10th
Gary Marshall	11th
Jo Beth Walstrom	11th
Carol Webster	12th
Susan Chesko	14th
Jim Bruening	19th
Eliana Couillard	19th
Lynette Belew	20th
Robert Gerlach	20th
Tricia MacDonald	25th
Lanai Mills	25th
Doug McInelly	26th
Angelina Waters	26th
Burton Newbry	28th
Evangelina Couillard	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.

Ann Conklin: 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

NEW MEMBERS

McGrath, Michael & Ines
1367 S. Country Club Drive, Unit 1215
Mesa, AZ 85210
Michael: 623-505-8105
Ines: 480-509-9260

Oelschlager, Lois
(address in current directory)

Seehorn, Jeff & Bonnie
1255 N. Arizona Ave., #1057
Chandler, AZ 85225
Jeff: 206-999-84883
Bonnie: 206-999-7974

Calendar Notes

August

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

August 9

Preschool begins

August 11

WRAP Leader Orientation

August 14

Officer Retreat

August 15

Youth & Parents Meeting

August 22 & 29

Children's Church Open House

August 29

Monthly Food Drive

September 1

WRAP begins

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Mesa, AZ 85201
Phone: 480-964-8606**

E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

Website: www.fpcmesa.org

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

**Ann Conklin, 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**