

La Palabra

August 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

Two Friends, ...one old and one new

I have a biblical friend named Nicodemus, who once went to Jesus by night to ask a question for both of us: *How can a person once grown old be born again?* My friendship with Nicodemus began when I realized that we shared the same concern about aging. And the older I get, the more we seem to bond with each other.

The Lord's answer clearly had both of us in mind. He explained that we are physical and spiritual beings, that we have a physical birth by which we take our place in the temporal world, and then we have a spiritual awakening when we discover our place in the saving purposes of God. He explained that when the Spirit of God is welcomed, life is blessed with endless experiences of rebirth. Indeed, we have found it so!



As it is true of those who follow Christ across the landscape of life, so also it is true of the fellowship of the church. We may be showing signs of being an aging congregation, but we are also living on the brink of a profound moment of rebirth! As I announced early in our interim season: *our church is pregnant!*

Please save the date: Sunday, August 28, 2022! I have invited the Rev. Dr. Sean Chow to preach his inspiring message of church revitalization. Sean is one of the most inspiring voices for New Worshiping Communities in the PC(USA), and I am certain that he will awaken among us a passion for rebirth.

So let this be *our come to Jesus* moment ~ with my new friend Sean Chow ~ and let us come prepared to ask of the Lord, *How can we, having grown old, be born again?*

With blessings and love,
David

INDEX

<i>A Message from David</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	3
<i>Fellowship</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Mission</i>	5
<i>August Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Address Changes</i>	6
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	6
<i>Birth Announcement</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	website

WORSHIP

Worship (E) – Dan Reeves
Dir. Of Music Ministries (Chair) – Mark Ramsey
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

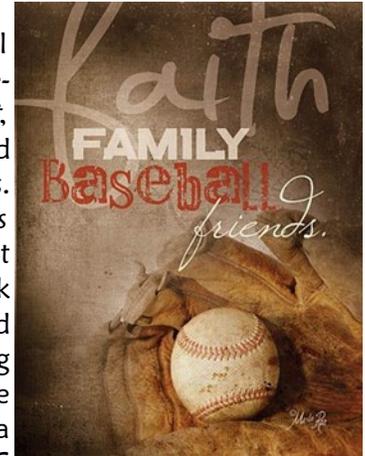
Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen
Worship (D) — Cheryl Gregory
Worship (D) – Sheilah Dye

Mark's Remarks

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

“Everything must be possible.” - J. S. Bach

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame!” Our FPC Family and Friends will gather on Friday, August 19th, for Faith and Family Night at Chase Field! Reserve your tickets now for the Diamondbacks and musical guests *Switchfoot*, and then come and root for the team. Grab a friend and your ball glove and join us at Chase Field as the Diamondbacks take on the St. Louis Cardinals. After the game, *Switchfoot* will be live in concert! There will also be fireworks and player testimonials. *Switchfoot* is based in San Diego, California, and first gained mainstream recognition with their music for the 2002 movie “A Walk to Remember.” The name “Switchfoot” came from a surfing term. Lead vocalist Jon Foreman explained that “we all love to surf and have been surfing all our lives, so to us, the name made sense. To switch your feet means to take a new stance facing the opposite direction. It's about change and movement, a different way of approaching life and music.” Tickets may be reserved at FPC during Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings!



Fall Choirs will kick off next month! Wednesday WRAP will begin on September 7th and will be scheduled in multiple blocks throughout the school year. Kindergarten students through adults will enjoy music, dinner, Bible study, and much more. The First Ringers and Sanctuary Choir will also begin on September 7th (6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.), and Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir will begin on Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:00 p.m. One Voice will be the last to kick off, on Thursday, September 15th, at 6:00 p.m. Hearts Hands and Voices will rehearse on select Saturdays for special anthems on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd, and Music Sunday, December 18th. Join in the fall fun as we share music to bring to our Sunday worship services!



We continue to gather congregation band photographs! The photos will be put into a collage, “The Band of Angels.” We’ll share the collage in a future newsletter to see who can guess the most musicians! Please select photos of you wearing your marching/concert uniform, especially those from years ago, so guessing will be more of a challenge! Please bring photos to the Church Office or send them to music@fpcmesa.org.

Coming Events

- 8/8 First Day of FPC Preschool
- 8/19 Faith and Family Night with the Arizona Diamondbacks and the band Switchfoot
- 8/27-28 Presbytery THE BIG EVENT (FPC will be an east valley hub church)
- 9/4 Hymnfest
- 9/11 Fall Kick-Off Sunday!

Humoresque

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

So I woke up, and my dog was lying on the back patio covered in dirt, and he had a rabbit in his mouth. The rabbit wasn't bloody, just dirty. My neighbor's kids raised blue ribbon rabbits, so I instantly knew it was one of theirs. I took the rabbit away from my dog, rushed inside, and washed all the dirt off it before my neighbors could come home. It was stiff, and I heard some animals play dead when they are afraid, but I couldn't remember which ones. I placed it back in one of the cages in their backyard, then I zoomed back home. Not thirty minutes later, I heard my neighbors screaming, so I went out and asked them what was wrong. They told me that their rabbit had died three days earlier and that they had buried it, but now it was back in its cage.

FPC Presbyterian Women are looking forward to launching a new year filled with many exciting aspects, including:



- A Bible study that promotes and embraces *God's Gift of Rest and Delight* as we are *Celebrating Sabbath*;
- A Women's Appreciation Tea – **an invitation to all** FPC women to share fellowship and acknowledge the contributions of so many generous sisters on September 10th;
- A Synod of the Southwest fall retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center;
- A collection of fiction and nonfiction books recommended by our Presbytery PW – in our library now; come check them out!
- Continued anticipation of our Thanksgiving Bake Sale – always a popular event;
- But most important of all is the fellowship, love and support enjoyed at our monthly Circle meetings. We encourage ALL to find the Circle that fits your schedule and attend as you are able.

Circles meetings begin in September and follow this established schedule:

Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor;
Eve Circle meets the second Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor;
Rachel Circle meets the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

You are invited to pop in and give us a try or attend the Circle you already call home.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Erin Skarphol
Fellowship (D) — Jo Beth Walstrom
Presbyterian Women — Carol Anderson

Fellowship (D) — Kate McMichael
Fellowship (D) — Todd Ramsey
Fellowship (D) — Brooks Newbry

Moderator (D) — Sue Eisenklam
Co-Moderator (D) — Robert Harding

Faith & Family Night with the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday, August 19th, at 6:40 p.m. Tickets are \$29 and are located in the Baseline Reserve section at field level. The featured band is Switchfoot! Come join the fun!



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

August Faith Formation Happenings



Our Sunday School programs are on summer break until the fall kickoff on September 11, 2022. The Children's Pray & Play area in the sanctuary will be available during worship. Have a fun and safe summer.



August Youth Event. We are headed to Altitude Trampoline Park in Gilbert on Sunday, August 7, 12:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. We will enjoy two-hours of jumping fun including a rousing game of extreme dodgeball. The cost is \$30 and includes access to the park and pizza with drinks. This event is for Junior High and Senior High students, and we are also encouraging our recent High School grads to join us. Permission forms can be found on the church website: <https://fpcmesa.org/youth> or email Chris.

FPC Faith Formation for the Fall. With the month of August comes the start of routines such as back to school, as well as preparation and planning for the fall. Please review our Faith Formation calendar for program launch dates. We are also in the season of recruiting those who want to help with our children & youth programs. See the church website for more information & to sign-up: <https://fpcmesa.org/childrens-ministries>

Children's Choir

We are in the planning stages of relaunching our Children's Choir at FPC Mesa this fall. Please contact Chris McKee if you're interested in signing up your child or to get more information. chris@fpcmesa.org



Faith Formation Calendar

- Children's Sunday School Teacher Orientation, August 14 at 11:30 a.m. Chris' Office
- WRAP Leadership Orientation, August 17 at 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Dinner Included. (Teachers, Cooking Teams & Music Leaders)
- WRAP Fall Kickoff, Wednesday, September 7, at 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Christian Education Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 a.m. We will commission our Christian Educators and present third grade Bibles. Please contact Chris McKee if your child is entering the third grade so we can present a Bible to them.
- Children & Youth, Adult Sunday School Launch, September 11, at 11:20 a.m.

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



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 spots open for your child, grandchild, neighbor or friend's kids. The first day of school is Monday, August 8th. Our Meet the Teacher event will be on Thursday, August 4th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. 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
- 5oz paper Dixie Cups
- Snacks - individually wrapped & healthy
- Small Paper bowls
- Small Paper plates
- Old Newspapers
- 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

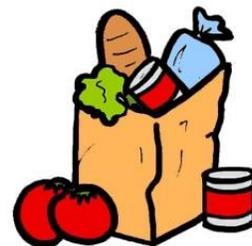
MISSION

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



August Birthdays



Frank Thompson	1st
Charlotte Roberts	3rd
Gordon Letizia	4th
Verna Green	5th
Todd Verch	6th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ayden Hickey	8th
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
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.

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

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Anderson, Fernande 3060 N. Ridgecrest, #141 Mesa, AZ 85207	Wallen, Don 2002 W. Sunnyside Dr., #1303 Phoenix, AZ 85029 602-314-6218
Clark, Sandra 2929 E. Main, #89 Mesa, AZ 85213	
Stirling, Carol c/o Copper Village 5037 E Broadway, #903 Mesa, AZ 85206	

Calendar Notes

August
Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
In person or online
Food Donations taken every Sunday

August 4
Preschool Meet the Teacher Night

August 7
Deacons meet
Session meets

August 8
First day of Preschool

August 14
Children's Sunday School Teacher Orientation

August 17
WRAP Leadership Orientation

August 19
Faith & Family Night @ Diamondbacks

August 27 & 28
The Big Event
(FPC will be a hub church)

Congratulations!

KreeSanto Carapia was born on July 2, 2022 at 11:22 p.m.
Proud Parents: Kennedy Kaeser & Esteban Carapia

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

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A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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161 North Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201**

Phone: 480-964-8606

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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**