

La Palabra

September 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Discipleship: The Way of Jesus

The Great Commission given by Jesus and recorded in Matthew can be summed up as: “Go and make disciples!” As followers of Jesus, we are to become disciples and also make disciples – encourage discipleship in others whom God has put in our path. However, we need to first become clear about our own call to discipleship ~ what that means and how that takes shape in our lives ~ before we can effectively disciple others.

With that in mind, our focus this fall in both worship/preaching and in the Wednesday WRAP adult education study will be on discipleship. The sermon series will focus on the lives and actions of disciples: What Disciples Do. We will consider how disciples take their faith seriously, wrestle with God, resist greed, practice generosity, give thanks, and take their faith public! My hope is that this will help all of us grow deeper in our lives of discipleship and become better equipped to guide others to grow in their faith as well.

For Wednesday WRAP, we will use the Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding curriculum of the PC(USA) which will be our guide as we consider the meaning and implications of living the lives of discipleship to which we have been called. Here is a brief excerpt from the participant’s booklet:

No word is more basic to the Christian vocabulary that “discipleship.” In many ways, however, it is a strange word, because discipleship makes unusual and unique demands on us. If I am a disciple, I must acknowledge the authority of a master or leader... If I am a disciple, I must commit myself to practicing a way of life that will deepen my distinctive identity as a follower of this master and as a member of this community.

Do we have any master greater than ourselves? Do we truly know to whom we belong? Do we/will we participate in a community that both encourages and corrects us to live more faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ?

These are important questions to ponder and pray about as together we delve deeper into discipleship, becoming the dynamic disciples God has created us to be! I am looking forward to worshipping, praying, and studying with you this fall!

Grace and peace, to all.

~ Ann

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WORSHIP

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

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen
Worship (D) —
Fellowship (D) – David Miller

Mark's Remarks

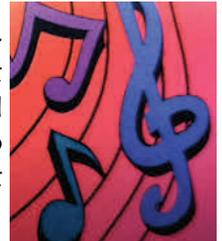
(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

"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

Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, Guitarist Allan Schultz, Bass Guitarist Karen Rudin, and Soprano Joan White will lead a Hymnfest during worship on September 1st. The Hymnfest will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and will include hymn stories and a hymnsing prelude, with a service theme of "Singing Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs." Please arrive early for the hymnsing . . . and bring your singing voices!

Our two-service schedule will return on September 8th, with worship at 9:00 in the Sanctuary and 11:00 in Fellowship Hall (HolyGrounds), with Christian Education at 10:15. The fall choir schedule will also kickoff on September 8th, and the Sanctuary Choir will return as the worship choir. Thank you to the HolyGrounds Praise Band and each musician who provided special music during the summertime. Thank you also to Bryan Hickey who faithfully provided setups/teardowns for our Fellowship Hall services.

The First Ringers, one of our two, adult handbell choirs, is looking for new members to start the fall season. The choir practices for just under an hour on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m and rings in church services every month or two. Music reading and handbell technique will be taught to those who do not have those skills. If you have the desire to ring handbells and the ability to come regularly to rehearsals, please see Bea Towe at church or leave a message in the church office with your name and contact information.



Pure Praise Singers' director Karen Rudin has been operating her Starshine School of Music for many years. **If you or one of your friends or family might be interested in guitar, piano, or voice instruction, be sure to see Karen at the church. She might even give in and teach a bit of trombone!** The Pure Praise Singers are already preparing for the musical "Make a Joyful Noise," which will be presented during the spring. The group currently rehearses during Wednesday WRAP at 5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Children in grades K-6 are encouraged to participate!



Anita and I had a wonderful time in Montana this summer. We visited with Marj Burgan and Paul & Mary Carlson, and the five of us attended the International Choral Festival in Missoula. It was fabulous! We heard eighteen or so concerts over four days, which were packed with programs by adult and children's choirs from Germany, Estonia, China, Finland, Hungary, Spain, Los Angeles, Montana, Lithuania, Indonesia, and Phoenix (Phoenix Girls Chorus!). On the weekend after the festival, the five of us traveled up to Polson, Montana, stayed at Marj's beautiful home, and sang in worship with the Choir of Polson Presbyterian Church, where Marj worships during the summer. Thank you to the FPC Session and Congregation for making possible such an extraordinary musical experience. It was such a blessing.





Humoresque

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

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Wonder no more!!! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life. If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried. The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing: "Freeze a jolly good fellow." "Freeze a jolly good fellow."

Coming Event

- 9/13 Faith and Family Night at the Arizona Diamondbacks, with player testimonies, fireworks, and musical guests For King & Country. Get your tickets during Sunday Coffee Time!

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Transportation (D) — Steve Muth

Fellowship Deacon — Jennifer Martin
Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey

Moderator (D) – Jack Oliver
Liaison (D) – Jan Montgomery
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman



“Play ball!” Join our FPC family on Friday, September 13th, for Faith and Family Night as our Arizona Diamondbacks will be taking on the Cincinnati Reds. The game begins at 6:40 p.m. We have reserved seats in Section 135, row 37, 1 thru 22. The cost is \$35 per ticket. The postgame festivities will consist of fireworks and a concert by King and Country. Ticket reservations are being taken during the Coffee Hour on Sundays.



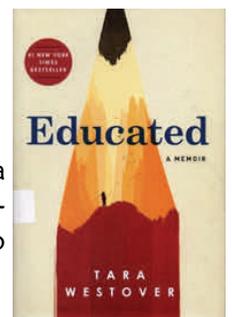
We are beginning our new Bible Study, “Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments,” by Eugenia Ann Gamble. The year will be filled with good discussions, fellowship and reconnecting.

This Fall and Winter bring different gatherings in the upcoming months. The October 4th – 6th Synod Triennial Gathering is in Tucson. The PW Bake Sale will be Sunday, November 24th, after the 9:00 service. It’s a great time to buy sweets for Thanksgiving. Our FPC Holiday Luncheon will be Saturday, December 14th. Carol Main, our USA Mission Experience representative, will be our speaker. She went to the Finger Lakes Region, New York, in July with the theme; Standing on the shoulders of empowered women: “For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm.” (Gal. 5:1a, NRSV). There will be more information about the luncheon later in the year.

Books from the 2019-20 reading list are on the PW shelf in the library.

Educated, a Memoir by Tara Westover

The seventh child of isolationist, survivalist parents Tara grew up in rural Idaho in a filthy, ramshackle house with no conveniences, no medical care and no schooling. The family survived on income from a junk yard and herbal medicines her mother made. With no prior education, Tara entered Brigham Young University when she was 16.



DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey
Older Adult — Dave Jurgensen

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding
Youth Elder — Will Snitzer

Minister of Faith Formation Happenings

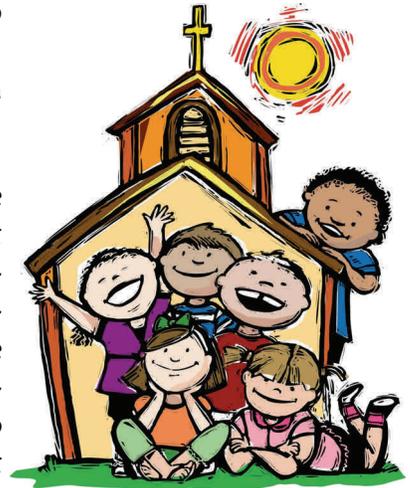
WRAP Is Back! Midweek fellowship, Bible Study and dinner for children, youth and adults. Get all the details at the WRAP table during Coffee Hour. Volunteers still needed!

Christian Education Sunday & Third Grade Bibles Presentation. Join us September 8th at our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship as we kickoff a new Sunday school year, present third grade Bibles and commission our new Sunday School teachers. Please contact Chris McKee if your child is in the third grade so we can present a Bible to them.

Nursery Attendants Needed. We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship. High School youth are encouraged to apply. Please contact Stephanie Gerlach or Chris McKee if you're interested.

Looking for Sunday School Teachers. Will you consider helping out with the children's Sunday School program? We are in need of a couple more individuals to teach Sunday School to our kiddos. No prior experience required. We will train you. Please prayerfully consider joining our Christian Education team by contacting Chris.

Children Worship Volunteers. We are looking to restart the Children's Worship at 9:00 a.m. and seeking volunteers to assist us. Children's Worship will provide preschool and young elementary age kids an age appropriate worship experience. The Children's Worship will present the Biblical narrative with interactive stations to better engage the kids. We are seeking both musically-inclined individuals, as well as those who can facilitate the worship activity stations. The thought is to have the younger children start out in the traditional 9:00 a.m. worship and transition them to the Children's Worship space, following the Young Disciple's Moment. If you are interested, please contact Chris McKee.



FPC Sunday Youth Opportunities. Starting Sunday, September 8th, our Junior and Senior High students will meet at 10:15 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. in the Youth Room. The youth will have an opportunity to check in and have a brief Bible study. We will typically discuss the scripture from worship. We will try to schedule special events once a month, as well as head to Dutch Brothers Coffee or Dunkin' Donuts every month. We are also planning the community service opportunities. Stay tuned.

WRAP Youth Has Restarted. Join us Wednesdays 5:00-7:00 for dinner, fellowship, Bible Study and Music (Registration required to cover dinner.)

Youth Calendar (Events might change so stay tuned.)

- September 8th — Pizza Party & Scavenger Hunt, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m., Youth Room
- September 15th — Dutch Brothers during Sunday School
- October 13th — Dunkin' Donuts during Sunday School
- October 27th — Laser Tag & Pizza, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Signup with Chris by October 13. (\$25 pp., need at least 10 to go.)

Looking Ahead: Possible Rock Climbing in November more details to come!

Please contact Chris McKee, our Minister of Faith Formation with any questions: Chris@fpcmesa.org

A new Christian Education class, Parenting Forum – A Place to Share, will begin Sunday, September 8th, at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room and will be facilitated by Robert Harding M.Ed. Robert shares: “With my 26 years of middle school teaching experience, 15 of those years working with At-Risk students in an Alternative to Suspension Program, my knowledge (personally learning the hard way) and my formal education, I will provide you with many proven antidotes, strategies, and skills.” You too, through this setting, can offer your experiences, what worked or didn't work for you. Let's talk, share, and help each other raise our children of God. If you have any question, please contact Robert.



Welcome back to the new school year at First Presbyterian Preschool! We started on August 12th with 31 kids enrolled! We want to give a special shout out and thank you to all of you who have donated school supplies, snacks and monetary donations to the preschool for the beginning of this year. It has helped tremendously, and we are already off to a great start! We hired a new teacher named Chantal Howell. She is fun and has a great love of God and children. What a great combination!

We are still looking for a couple more children to fill our Quality First scholarship program slots. We have room in our Pre-K classroom and would appreciate any referrals that you might know of for our program. I am in the office from 8:30-1:30 Monday thru Friday to give tours and answer questions. Please have them email or call me for more information. preschool@fpcmesa.org or 480-835-7877

We are already looking ahead to the first chapel with Pastor Ann and Chris. We welcome the families to praise and worship God here at our school on September 4th. We will start at 9:00 am in Fox chapel. Please join us!

Thank you for all that you do for our little school! We greatly appreciate it, especially the prayers!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg
Pastor – Ann Conklin
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark
Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak

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

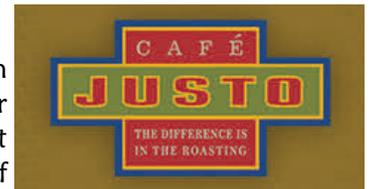


Peace and Global Witness Special Offering –
“The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God’s mission to those around the corner and around the world.” (PC USA)

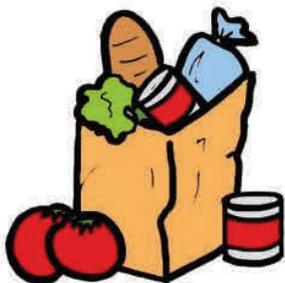
Starting September 1st and going through October 6th is our season of peace. This offering will help equip peacemakers in congregations and around the world. For more information look at PCUSA special offerings web site. 50% of the offering will go to PCUSA for supporting those who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the world. 25% will go to mid council to support regional ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. 25% FPC Mesa gets to designate for supporting the same causes. You can also get involved by subscribing to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox from September 1st – October 6th by signing up at presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace and scroll down until you see the “Sign Me Up” button on the right side that you can click on. Please prayerfully consider your giving to this special offering. Envelopes will be in the pews starting September 15th and the offering will be received on World Communion Sunday (October 6th).

Mesa Make a Difference Day – Mesa Make a Difference Day has had a name change and is now Love Your City Day. We have registered to help again and have requested to do the same activities as last year which includes stuffing bags on Saturday, September 21st, and then delivering them on Saturday, September 28th. If you would like to participate, there is also a Love Your City Kickoff Event on Thursday, September 26th, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. where there will be raffles and the Mayor and Council will speak as well. If you are interested, please see Shelley Cronenberg during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall on September 8th to sign up or reach out via phone 480-239-1289 or email Shelley.Cronenberg@gmail.com for more info.

Café Justo – Our Quarterly Café Justo Coffee Sales will continue on Sunday, September 15th, during the coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. It is \$10 per bag for this delicious coffee. Thank you in advance for your continued support in helping the coffee farmers and other people involved in the production of this coffee in Mexico make a livable wage.



Food Pantry – I hope you are as excited as I am by the construction of our new Food Pantry! Moving day arrived and many thanks to all who helped with that, especially the youth group and Chris. You should have seen the shelving units, canned foods, and all other sorts of food moving from the old to the new pantry. It went very smoothly and was fun to watch!



This was taken on as an Eagle Scout project for Ben Gerlach. He carefully designed and constructed the entire two rooms to fit the needs and make it beautiful and useful. The storage is separate from our bagging and work room. We no longer have to store food in other parts of the church. It truly is a blessing to us in our mission to feed the needy. Thank you, Ben, for all your hard work and for being in Scouts! We invite everyone to come and see our wonderful pantry.

As far as needed items this month, we could use spaghetti pasta, snack bars and toilet paper.

—Sandra Clark

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Ruth Rummler	5th
Ron Wright	5th
Diana Johnson	7th
Gregg Gerlach	10th
Suzanne Engman	13th
Sam Smith	13th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Adam Williams	14th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Nuha Ghubril	17th
Bill Rummler	17th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Helen Thielke	18th
Kyle Harding	21st
Rediet Newbry	21st
Paul Harding	22nd
Steve Post	25th
Sandra Clark	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Jeanette Chaney	29th

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.



Thank you, dear friends, for the deluge of 80th birthday greetings. I can hardly believe I have reached this milestone in my life. With such an outpouring of well-wishes, I embrace the next decade with prayerful enthusiasm. Blessings, Susan McMichael

A BIG THANK YOU to Belinda Clark for spending many hours doing some much needed deep cleaning in our kitchen! Please help keep the kitchen clean by wiping down/degreasing stove tops and counter tops after every use, as well as disposing of unused/expired food from the refrigerator and freezers. This is everybody's responsibility as we do not have any regular cleaning of the kitchen. THANK YOU!

Calendar Notes

September 1

Hymnfest in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.

September 2

Labor Day — Office Closed

September 4

First Ringers & Sanctuary Choir rehearsals begin

September 8

Christian Education Sunday
Youth Scavenger Hunt & Pizza

September 12

Befrienders meet
One Voice & Dei Gloriam rehearsals begin

September 13

D'Backs Faith & Family Night

September 15

Commissions & Session meet

September 28

Bob Martz Memorial Service

September 29

Monthly Food Drive



IN MEMORIAM

Robert Martz — July 31, 2019
Nina Jo Woods — August 12, 2019
Diane Byerly — August 15, 2019



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

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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