

La Palabra

September 2024

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Christian

Psalm 19:6 (Living Bible)

The sun crosses the heavens from end to end,
and nothing can hide from its heat.



The most common thing I hear when I meet a local and they find out I've moved from out of state is, "Oh, you haven't been through your first summer yet."

With the calendar turning to September (which I realize can still be "hot"), I'm happy to know that I've passed through the most intense part of summer. What a blessing air conditioning and swimming pools are! It's curious that monsoons come in the hottest part of the year. The seasons reveal themselves in unique ways in different parts of the country!

Churches also have their cycles. Just last weekend, our church leadership team was talking about this concept as we were receiving a report from the Strategic Planning Group, an ad hoc group set up by the session, that has been facilitating the collection of information and insights about our church while seeking to discern what Jesus is doing and

calling us to do. The elders were considering a fresh expression of our mission, vision, and values that we hope will be something like the planting of a tree that will, in time, with the help of God, bear fruit among us. In the days and weeks ahead, we will explore the dimensions of this new vision and how we can collaborate to bring it to fruition, to the glory of God. I am hopeful and excited for this new, verdant season of life amid our desert environment.

Please join me in praying for our church and community.

Blessings!
Pastor Christian Johnson

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News from the **AUGUST** Session meeting

Clerk's Statistics for **JUNE AND JULY**



No weddings, births, baptisms or deaths.
Membership: **192**, new members Kristen Johnson, Taidan Johnson, Ella Johnson and Linda Zeiler
Average Attendance: June 66 in-person & 63 online = 129
July 62 in-person & 56 online = 118
June Income \$22,794; Expense \$39,524
July Income \$23,619; Expense \$31,979
YTD Income \$226,616; Expense \$179,523

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Reports/Motions

Session approved a new Mission Statement: *Reach Up and Out in Faith and Love*

The Annual Officer/Staff Retreat will be Saturday, September 21.

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 apportionment payment we owe, based on our 12/31/22 membership of 240, is \$9,242.40.

Fellowship

Mark your calendars for the return of our Monthly Potlucks on September 22nd immediately following worship. A good time will be had by all!



Discipleship



Join us for **10:00 a.m.** worship on **September 8th** as we:

- Kickoff a new Sunday school year,
- Commission our Christian Educators
- Participate in a Ministry Fair following worship in Fellowship Hall

Worship



The Kick-Off Event for our 2024-25 FPC Artist Series will be presented by Soprano Nicole Larsen. Nicole will offer an afternoon performance in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 13th (4:00 p.m.). The program will be offered by our Artist Series Patrons. There will be no charge for the concert, but donations for Nicole and our Artist Series will be received at the door. In addition to enjoying a lovely afternoon of song, please consider contributing to the [Artist Series!](#)

Nicole has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Opera and Musical Theater Performance from Arizona State University. She has developed a music and choir program at a Montessori elementary school, directed and organized music education and outreach programs with the New Mexico Jazz Workshop, performed around the world as the lead singer for Celebrity Enterprises, and toured with Artrageous, including several operatic appearances in Germany. She is currently building her own non-profit to produce music and support artists across multiple disciplines, and is currently an Arizona Opera Ambassador. The FPC Concert will include music by Rachmaninov, Mozart, Brahms, Irving Berlin, and MORE! Plan to join Nicole in concert!

As the end of Summer approaches, we want to thank everyone for helping make our Fellowship Hall Worship Adventure a success! We'll return to the Sanctuary Sunday, September 8th, kicking off Fall with the commissioning of our Christian educators during worship, followed by a Ministry Fair in Fellowship Hall. We hope you'll join us for this very special Sunday. Blessings!



Mission

The next Community Dinner & Game Night will be Wednesday, September 4th, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Kick off Sunday will be September 8th. Please come to Fellowship Hall after church that day to see how you can help the community and what volunteer opportunities are available.



Upcoming events:

- The fall trunk or treat will be Saturday, October 26th, from 3:30-7:00 p.m.
- The second annual silent auction will be during the month of November. If you or a group you're in would like to put together a basket or donate an item, please bring those to the church between October 1-15. The money from the auction helps with mission work in our community.



Wow! August just flew by and the school year is off to a great start! We have been busy creating new routines, building new friendships and having lots of fun getting to know the children and families better. It has been fun to see the kids smile and laugh at the simple pleasures of spontaneous things, and we know that God is with us, too. We have been learning about our school, our families and the beginnings of the classic academics like colors and numbers. Fun times all around! We want to say a special thank you to those who have donated the many school supplies to the preschool. It is helping to replenish the stock for the year and really makes a difference to have it on hand when we need it. Thank you!

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to each one of you here at First Presbyterian Church. The last few weeks of August have been a special time of bonding and lots of hugs with the children and families that I will cherish for many years to come. I believe that the love and support that you have shown me over the years has helped make this program so successful, and I know that you will continue to share that in the future. I will be praying that God will continue to shower FPC with divine wisdom and grace. He has never let us down! I look forward to coming to visit and get lots of hugs soon.

Until then, thank you!
Shiloh Murillo

Director of Music Ministries – part-time
First Presbyterian Church of Mesa (FPC)

Job Description — Plan and organize the adult vocal musical ministries of the church which includes selection of music, conducting various adult musical groups and working with the Associate Director of Music Ministries on other music groups. Oversee the children’s music groups/programs. Work with the Pastor on selection of music for worship services. May include additional responsibilities related to the music program.

Requirements:

- Experience in working with musical groups
- Knowledge of church music appropriate for FPC
- Available on Wednesday evening and Sunday morning or as needed

Desired experience/requirements

- Under graduate or graduate degree in music
- Experience in working with or participating in a church music program
- Experience in conducting a choral group
- Available to attend staff meetings



Accountability — Reports to the Pastor/Head of Staff and Personnel Committee

Salary – \$18-\$20 per hour based upon previous experience. (15-20 hours per week)

Application process:

- Submit a letter of interest and resume to:
Personnel Committee
First Presbyterian Church
161 N. Mesa Drive
Mesa, Arizona 85201

Application must be received in the Church Office by September 15, 2024



What's new with Presbyterian Women? We are so glad you asked!

- Circles are ready to launch a new year, and we are always hoping to welcome additional ladies! All are welcome to pop in to any circle – every month or just once in a while! No need for a personal invitation or a secret password; come join any circle, any month! See the schedule at the end of this article.
- Our new PW Bible study is Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by Patricia K. Tull. "Calls to care for society's least powerful members resound throughout Scripture," as stated in Lesson One. Scripture will be the foundation of every one of the nine lessons in this study.
- Books! New PW recommended books will be available on **September 1**, Labor Day Sunday. Paper copies of the fiction and nonfiction booklist with brief commentaries will also be on the book cart in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to use an enclosed card to check them out and return them in a timely manner for others to read, too. Each month the La Palabra will include a brief description of one or more books from the list!
- A new **evening** Circle! Our new Salome Circle is in the process of being finalized. Stay tuned for details of day, time and location for many who would prefer to meet later in the day.
- Come check out our table at the Ministry Fair on September 8!



One more thing: Susan Durand and Carol Anderson attended the Churchwide PW Gathering in St. Louis. It was a marvelous event with amazing keynote speeches, informative breakout sessions, inspirational plenary sessions, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with PWs from across the country and world. It was truly a memorable event!



September Circles

Eve	Monday, 9/9, 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor
Deborah	Tuesday, 9/10, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
Rachel	Tuesday, 9/10, 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Ron Wright	5th
Diana Johnson	7th
Greg Gerlach	10th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Kyle Harding	21st
Rediet Newbry	21st
Sandra Clark	26th
Rylee MacDonald	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.

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



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Martin, Gana
960 19th St., #322
Sartell, MN 56377

Calendar Notes

September

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
in the Sanctuary or online

Christian Education:

Children's Sunday School begins 9/8 at 11:20 a.m.
Adults at 11:30 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken 1st and 3rd Sunday

September 1

Last Summer Worship in Fellowship Hall

September 2

Labor Day — Office closed

September 4

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals begin

September 8

Return to worship in Sanctuary
Kick-Off Sunday

Commissioning of Christian Educators
Ministry Fair

September 10

One Voice & Dei Gloriam rehearsals begin

September 11

First Ringers rehearsals begin

September 21

Officers Retreat

September 22

Monthly Potluck

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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161 North Mesa Drive
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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**