

La Palabra

October 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Each fall we, as a congregation, begin to think and pray about our life together and our witness in the world for the coming year. How will we show forth God's love and grace in this time and place...and how will we fund our efforts? At an annual retreat, Elders, Deacons, and Staff consider ministry goals and dreams, assessing what has been helpful and what might need to be improved upon. This year we will celebrate Dr. Mark Ramsey's 25 years of music ministry with FPC Mesa, even as we celebrate adding Chris McKee as our full-time Minister for Faith Formation to our excellent, committed staff.

All of this is possible because of your contributions in tithes and offerings. You generously give of your time, talent, AND treasure, and for that I give thanks. As you are probably aware, resources continue to decline while needs are ever and always on the rise. Please prayerfully consider an incremental increase to your pledge this year as you work towards a full tithe (if you are not there already!).

Our church budget reflects our values and priorities in ministry. It is a guide for us in how we allocate the resources entrusted to our care and for use in doing God's work here at FPC Mesa and our surrounding community. It is so much more than numbers on a page, and this piece (which I've adapted for use here) tells that story well!

I AM Your Church Budget

Through me, families are launched in marriage, people are baptized into Christ, and young and old alike are given guidance in Christian character and living a Christ-like life.

Through me, lives well lived are honored and remembered as we bear witness to the resurrection hope we have in Christ at funerals and memorial services.

I provide Sunday school and youth activities, along with Wednesday WRAP. I provide excellent and varied music to enrich your worship; preaching and pastoral care to help you grow closer to God and more faithful in your discipleship.

I cool and heat all of the building on our campus as well as maintain and improve our facilities and grounds throughout the year.

I reach out to our neighborhood and community, as well as to the wider world, preaching, teaching, and healing in Christ's name. Through contributions to our denomination, I help educate ministers in seminaries and provide assistance to those who have retired after years of faithful service to God in the church.

It is through me that the sick find spiritual strength, the troubled and discouraged are steadied. I go out in to the world, preaching the Gospel to all. I carry God's Word with me and seek to reveal God's love in many corners of our community and congregation.

I am your church budget. Please support me so that I may carry on in Christ's name. With your help, I make possible all of the ministry to which you have been called and are faithfully committed. As your budget, I am YOU at work in the world.

Your contributions are my foundation. Each one is essential to our work together.

I am your prayers, your concerns, your faith, your hopes, your funds all translated into action for the coming kingdom of God! Praise the Lord!

Grace & peace in Christ our Lord ~ 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

I have been greatly honored and humbled to receive such a wonderful gift in celebration of 25 years as Director of Music Ministries. I am **THRILLED!** The choirs have been hard at work rehearsing *"One Faith, One Hope, One Love,"* a commissioned anthem composed by Joel Raney. The anthem dedication reads, "In recognition and honor of Dr. Mark Ramsey's 25 years of Music Ministry with First Presbyterian Church, Mesa, Arizona." The anthem will be presented on November 3rd in one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. I thanked Joel for sharing his superb skills, and I told him that when I receive publisher catalogs, I most frequently search for his arrangements! Many, many thanks to the Celebration Committee, Staff, Session, and Congregation for this wonderful honor and for gifting me with such a beautiful anthem!

Fall choirs are in full swing, and each of our groups is already preparing for "O Come All Ye Faithful," this year's Music Sunday (December 22nd). If you are interested in our choirs, please take a moment to visit our website, www.fpcmesa.org. The Worship page includes information about the Artist Series, music ministries, and choir schedules, including anthem audio links, so you can practice and sing-a-long!

The First Players will present their 24th annual theatrical production on March 27th-29th. Pending show licensing, production information will be included in the November *La Palabra*. Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 23rd, 1:00-3:00 p.m. For audition information, contact Mark Ramsey, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Audition librettos and production schedules will be available in the Church Office on Sunday, November 10th.

Coming Events

- 10/27 Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- 11/2; 11/3 Catered Dinner & Joel Raney Piano Concert; Commissioned Anthem in 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service



Humoresque

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

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some pictures that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"



Join us Saturday, November 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. for a catered dinner in Fellowship Hall followed at 7:00 p.m. by a piano concert in the Sanctuary presented by guest composer and pianist, Mr. Joel Raney.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING COFFEE HOUR.

- DINNER AND CONCERT - \$25
- DINNER AND CONCERT FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER - \$15
- CONCERT ONLY - \$10

Reservations can also be made in the church office. Deadline for dinner reservations is Sunday, October 20th. Seating for dinner is limited, so plan to get your tickets for this celebratory occasion early!

On Sunday, November 3rd, enjoy a Musical Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. featuring the premiere of a specially commissioned choral and bell piece composed and dedicated to Dr. Ramsey by Mr. Joel Raney entitled *One Faith, One Hope, One Love*. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the worship service.

The Committee also welcomes any additional financial contributions toward this celebration. The names of donors will be listed on the Saturday evening program as an expression of our gratitude. There will be a basket for cards on Saturday and Sunday if you would like to bring a congratulatory card for Mark.

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

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

Minister of Faith Formation Happenings



Family Fun at the Pumpkin Patch. The fall season is here which means cooler days and fun harvest events at the pumpkin patch. Come join us at Vertuccio Farm's Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19th, at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy a fun time on the farm. Admission is \$10 p.p. for attractions and children under 2yrs. are free. Food is available for purchase or bring your own picnic in a small cooler. Check out the farm: <https://vertucciofarms.com/fall-festival/>

Wednesday WRAP. Our first block of WRAP has been a blast as the kids have been focusing on the book of Genesis. Block two launches on October 16th, and we will explore the Fruits of the Spirit. Join us Wednesdays 5:00-7:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship and Bible study. Programming available for children, youth and adults. Please note there is no WRAP on October 9th during fall break.

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.

Children Worship Volunteers. We are looking for volunteers to help out during the 9:00 a.m. Children's Worship. 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 activities to better engage the kids. No experience necessary, just a love for Jesus and kids. The younger children will start out in the traditional 9:00 a.m. worship and transition to the Children's Worship space, following the Young Disciple's Moment. If you are interested, please contact Chris McKee.

FPC Youth Ministry (Middle and High School)

Youth Volunteer Opportunities! FPC has multiple volunteer opportunities for our youth to get involved, as well as earn community service hours for school. Please contact Chris for further information: Nursery Attendants, HolyGrounds Coffeehouse Baristas, and help as servers for Mark Ramsey's celebration on November 2nd.

Youth Calendar (Events might change so stay tuned.)

- October 13th — Youth Coffee Run, Dunkin' Donuts during Sunday School
- October 27th — Laser Tag & Pizza, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (\$25 p.p.) Please get your permission forms and payments to Chris by October 13th!
- November 10th — Youth Coffee Run, Dutch Brothers during Sunday school.
- November 24th — Advent Celebration

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

What a wonderful feeling in the air! The temperatures are starting to drop and the kids are really enjoying the change. As we begin October, we are reminded that change is not a bad thing but a necessary part of God's plan for us. With excitement, we want to announce a couple of changes that are happening at our little school. First, we would like to welcome Chantal Howell as our co-teacher in the 3-year-old class with Ms. Sara. She is a fun and caring teacher for these little minds! Second, we are working together with our Quality First and Health consultant to get three members of our staff certified in Health and Safety practices as specialists in the childcare setting. It will be a benefit to all of the families and community that we serve.



In August, we started out the school year with 32 kids enrolled before the first day of school. Wow! A great blessing indeed! Also, we started our fall planting in our new garden boxes on the playground. Some of plants include pumpkin, sunflowers and lettuce. Hopefully, we will have a few things for the kids to help grow along the way bringing the classroom experience outside!

Additionally, we want to send out our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the FPC Congregants for their generous contributions of school supplies that started our program off on the right path. We are so humbled and thankful for your generosity! The children are thoroughly enjoying them! Thank you!

In Christ's Care,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

FELLOWSHIP

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

Fellowship Deacon — Jennifer Martin
Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey
Older Adult (E) — Dave Jurgensen

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

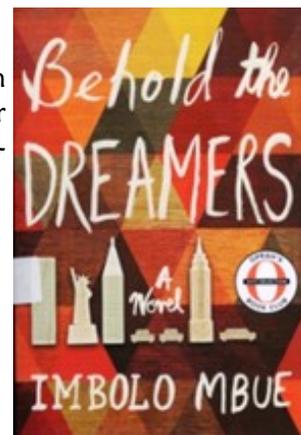


Circles meet as follows:

- Eve Circle meets in the parlor at 4:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.
- Deborah Circle meets in the parlor at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Lydia Circle meets in the parlor at 12:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Rachel Circle meets in the library at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Books from the 2019-2020 reading list are on the PW shelf in the library.

Behold the Dreamers, by Imbolo Mbue. Jende longa, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem came to the United States to provide a better life for himself and his family. They are working hard and doing well until the 2008 financial crisis affects their wealthy employers.



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



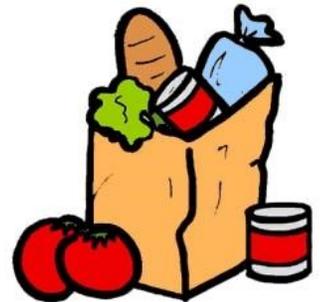
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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. Please prayerfully consider your giving to this special offering. Envelopes are in the pews and the offering will be received on World Communion Sunday (October 6th).

One Great Hour of Sharing — Thank you for everyone who donated to the One Great Hour of Sharing; we raised \$2,963.96! Your support is truly appreciated.

Food Pantry — School is back in session and our food pantry becomes even busier feeding needy people. Thank you for all you give. This month we continue to need dry pasta (spaghetti) and any canned meats like ravioli, chili or stews. Mashed potato packets are also always good.

-- Sandra Clark



A sincere thank you to my FPC Family for all the encouraging cards and support during my battle with throat cancer. I am presently recovering and dealing with the lingering effects of radiation and chemo, but I will survive! May God bless you all!

Steve Muth

October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Carter Buck	3rd
Rita Scriba	5th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Pearl Grace Alvarado	12th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Sam Thielke	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
Penelope Sitzler	16th
David Woods	19th
Dan Reeves	23rd
John McNary	25th
George Montgomery	26th
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katherine McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInelly	30th
Chuck Michel	30th

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.

Calendar Notes

October 6
World Communion Sunday

October 7
Deacons meet

October 8 & 14
Circles meet

October 20
Youth Coffee Run to Dunkin' Donuts
Commissions & Session meet

October 27
Monthly Food Drive
Dedication Sunday
Youth Laser Tag



Just for Laughs!

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!" The priest said, "Here comes the greenkeeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello, George. What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greenkeeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime." The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything he can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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**