

La Palabra

October 2020

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”

Friends, after a long time of not being together for worship, we are grateful and joy-filled to be able to welcome those who feel comfortable to come together for worship on **Sunday, October 4th, at 10:00 am** in our beautiful, sacred sanctuary to celebrate World Communion Sunday!

As your pastor, it fills me with joy that we have come to a time where this is possible. I am so very grateful for the technology that has allowed us to worship together online during these past several months. At the same time, it will be good, very good, to see some of you in person joining together to worship God very soon!

I have been so impressed with the commitment and cohesiveness of the session and the way that they have worked diligently on your behalf throughout this time. They have met regularly, prayed faithfully, and deliberated thoughtfully and respectfully, while not always agreeing with one another. In fact, the vote to return to in person worship was 8-4, indicating that there remains a variety of concerns and uncertainty with regards to our gathering. Your leaders have discerned that those who feel safe and comfortable gathering for worship ought to be able to do so at this time, with all of the precautions and procedures that have been put in place by our campus re-opening task force and approved by session.* The service will be live-streamed for those who do not feel comfortable returning at this time.

I want to also thank the staff of FPC Mesa for their dedication to our congregation, their commitment to continue ministry, and their creativity in all of their work during this most challenging time. We are blessed with an excellent staff who truly love the Lord and love the congregation here at FPC Mesa. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them as you return to our campus in the coming weeks and months.

Friends, this is good news! It is very good news! Join me in giving thanks to God for God’s ongoing presence and provision for us all!

In Christ,
Ann

**Please refer to the letter you recently received in the mail in addition to the June and July issues of La Palabra which can be found on our website at www.fpcmesa.org for the details of what to expect when we gather.*

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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) — 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

Campus Reopening! Phase one of our campus reopening will begin with worship-only on Sunday, October 4th, World Communion Sunday! Masks will be required, and numerous safety precautions will be in place. We'll have one shortened service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Livestreaming will continue for those who prefer to initially worship from home. In order to protect all, please stay home if you are not feeling well. Special music on World Communion Sunday will be provided by Soprano Karen Rudin, who will offer Daniel Burton's "The Lord is my Shepherd."



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Alice Francis, daughter of long-time FPC members Alice & Norm Peterson, donated their family's piano to FPC. Several volunteers went to pick up, secure, and carefully transport the instrument to FPC, where its family's music is continuing to ring in our Bell Room. The beautiful gift will sound forth beautiful music to bless our campus while accompanying our handbell choirs. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

FPC's Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs hymnals have served FPC for more than a quarter century and are now being retired in favor of our recently purchased Glory to God hymnals. The old hymnals have been moved to the Church Office, and the congregation is invited to drop by and pick up a copy on Thursdays between 1:00 and 3:00. Several hymnals include bookplates in memory or honor of FPC members and friends. If families of donors would like one or more of those hymnals set aside, please email your name, phone number, and bookplate name to music@fpcmesa.org, and we will do our very best to locate your hymnal(s).

Wrappy Hour will continue in October, with music, games, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship for all ages. Join us via Zoom during October, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, the 14th, 21st, and 28th! If you are interested in other upcoming musical activities, please take a moment to visit www.fpcmesa.org/worship. The site includes further information about our Artist Series and various music ministries.

Coming Events

On Campus Worship beginning Sunday, October 4th, at 10:00 a.m.!

Humoresque

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

A blonde is watching the news with her husband when the newscaster says: "Two Brazilian men die in a skydiving accident." The blonde starts crying to her husband, sobbing, "That's horrible!!!, so many men dying that way!" Confused, he says, "Yes, dear, it is sad, but they were skydiving, and there is always that risk involved." After a few minutes, the blonde, still sobbing, asks, "How many is a Brazilian"? [from Carol Gerlach]



The 2020—2021 Bible study is “Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament,” by P. Lynn Miller. In all that we have experienced within just a few months, it is hard to believe that this study was not written this year. Lament might mean different things to different people. Following is a quote from the introduction:

“WHY BOTHER TO LAMENT? BECAUSE LAMENT

- is communication with God,
- broadens our prayer lives,
- connects us to the world and the God who loves it and us,
- helps us focus on the actual situations that lead us to lament,
- is an opportunity to confess our faith in God whose promises are trustworthy.

When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. In our faith there is hope. We lament in order to hope.”

Lesson I will begin the week of October 12th. Each circle will decide if they will meet in person, or on line. Following are the usual meeting times, and a contact person to reach for the October meetings. The lessons look like they will be helpful in the times we are living in now, and an opportunity to meet and support each other with His Love and His Grace.

Eve Circle:	Second Monday of the Month at 4:00 pm, in the church parlor	Jo Throckmorton
Rachel Circle:	Second Tuesday of the Month at 1:00 pm in the library	Susan McMichael
Lydia Circle:	Second Tuesday of the Month at noon in the parlor	Carol Cline
Deborah Circle:	Second Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 am In the parlor	Suzi Payton



I want to thank the church members that sent me cards for my 90th birthday on September 5th. It was very much appreciated.

It was a great day. Mary Jean and I hiked 5 miles on the Highline trail going west from Christopher Creek Trailhead. The weather was perfect, temp about 60 degrees.

I am looking forward to 100, hoping that I maintain my health.
Thank you. Ron Wright

We, the congregation of Fort Defiance Presbyterian Church, wish to acknowledge and thank you for your kindness and generosity of the much-needed and appreciated supplies sent to us. We will make every effort to see that they are distributed to those who need them. May God bless you all abundantly.

Sincerely, Mary & Wallace Hanley for Fort Defiance Presbyterian Church

FPC Staff emails are listed below. Staff cell phone numbers are listed in the church directory.

- Ann Conklin: pastor@fpcmesa.org
- Mark Ramsey: choirs@cox.net
- Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
- Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
- Don Krill: buildings@fpcmesa.org

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding
Youth Elder — Ben Gerlach

October Faith Formation Happenings

WRAPPY Hour: Casual, Christian Fellowship & Fun for all ages! The second block of WRAPPY Hour will be online Wednesday October 14th, at 6:00 p.m. Please stay-tuned for updates when we will return in-person. (The second Block of WRAPPY Hour is scheduled October 14, 21, 28 and November 4 & 18.) WRAPPY Hour is an intergenerational gathering for all ages with fun games, songs, God talk and prayer in a family friendly format. Join us at 6:00 p.m. and unwind from a busy day. Is it a worship? No! Is it Bible study? Not really. Then what is it? We call it Wrappy Hour. Come and discover the fun for yourself!

Wrappy Hour Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83126715351?pwd=S1BPWlpMSVFFSnFRU0p3clYrNIRldz09>

Meeting ID: 831 2671 5351

Passcode: 939231

Faith Formation Resources: During this time of physical distancing we have provided numerous resources including written and video devotions for all ages to enjoy on our church's website: <https://fpcmesa.org/discipleship>.

Sunday Youth Back to In-Person Gathering. Our FPC youth ministry is excited to announce we will be back to in-person gathering on **October 11th at 11:15 a.m.**, in the Youth Room. To celebrate being back in person, we are having a pizza party! Our Sunday Youth Gathering is for Junior and Senior High students and is time to check in with new and old friends, play fun games, talk God stuff and prayer. For the time being, we will be practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask to keep safe. There will be no Youth Group Sunday, October 4th, because of Fall Break.



In Christ,

Chris McKee

Minister of Faith Formation

chris@fpcmesa.org



Well, isn't life sweet! September has been busy! We are so pleased to announce that the Preschool is up and running, open with children everyday again! It is such a blessing to return to the classroom with the laughter and fun that children bring. We started the Fall 2020 school year on September 8th with 11 kids. We combined the two classrooms into one for the time being and expect to go back to having the two classrooms in the near future.

Since opening, we have replaced two of the three slides, started the new daily COVID health screenings and incorporated the help of the families to keep our environment clean, safe and healthy. AND it is going very well! We are still enrolling children and have already toured three new families in the last week that plan to start soon.

October will be just as busy but with a little more routine settling in as well. The preschool teachers are working with the children to do fun activities every day which include different themes around health, nutrition and my body. We will also be doing puppet exploration and Halloween fun.

I am so happy that we are back and so are the teachers, children and families that we serve. God is ever present and has been an important part of our new beginning. He has given us so much to be thankful for! And by the way, thank you to all of you who donated items, snack and supplies for our school drive. It has really been a huge help to get us started again!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

Maricopa County Department of Public Health will be offering free flu vaccines to adults and children 6 months and older on Thursday, October 22nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at FPC Preschool. To receive the flu shot, you must be willing to sign the waiver from the Department of Public Health available for download from www.fpcmesa.org. You also need to let us know if you plan on coming, so there will be enough vaccine. Please contact the church office at 480-964-8606 or Shiloh Murillo at the Preschool 480-835-7877 if you are interested.

The FPC Mesa Nominating Committee seeks disciples of Jesus Christ who are members of our congregation to serve as Elders and Deacons for an upcoming 3-year term to begin June 2021. The ministry descriptions given in our Book of Order are as follows:

G-2.02 DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

G-2.0201 Deacon Defined

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

G-2.03 RULING ELDERS: THE MINISTRY OF DISCERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE

G-2.0301 Ruling Elder Defined

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and they are eligible for any office.

The Nominating Committee: Allan Schultz, Hal Engman, Anita Ramsey, Tammy Miller, Helen Thielke, David Jurgensen, Barbara Walker.

MISSION

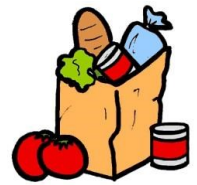
Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg
 Pastor – Ann Conklin
 Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark
 Assimilation (D) — Deborah Rosen

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

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering. “Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ’s peace throughout our community and our world” (PC USA). Starting September 6th and going through World Communion Sunday on October 4th, we celebrate the season of peace through the Peace and Global Witness offering. 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% of it will go to support our mission coworkers Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado and the people of the US-Mexico Border and the ministry of Frontera de Cristo . Please prayerfully consider your giving to this special offering.

The Food Pantry is doing well. Because of changing deliveries from United Food Bank, we get prepared bags ready for the clients. We haven’t had baggers work for some time, and we know they would like to work! (Marilyn, Jean & Cheryl). We no longer need plastic bags. Food requests would be cereals and dry, instant potatoes. Thank you!

~ Sandy Clark



October Birthdays



<i>Jennifer Martin</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Dylan Hickey</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Carter Buck</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Rita Scriba</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Steve Wylie</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Connie Chisholm</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Pearl Grace Alvarado</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Brooks Newbry</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Sam Thielke</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Bob Mallia</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Dale Gibson</i>	<i>15th</i>

<i>Penelope Sitzler</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>David Woods</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Dan Reeves</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>John McNary</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>George Montgomery</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Diane Brause</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>John Couillard</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Katherine McMichael</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Cary Preston</i>	<i>29th</i>
<i>Janet Verch</i>	<i>29th</i>
<i>Luke McInnelly</i>	<i>30th</i>

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

Other than worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m., there are no events scheduled on our campus. If this changes, we will let you know as quickly as possible. Please read the Weekly Update or listen to the announcements at worship.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Clark, Sandra 303 N. Lindsay Rd., R36 Mesa, AZ 85213	Masterson, Katie 3242 N Willows Ranch Rd. Kingman, AZ 86401 (Same phone and email)
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161 N. Mesa Drive
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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

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