

# La Palabra

October 2021

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

***For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. —John 3:16***

We worship a very generous God. God gives us our very life and breath! Jesus gave his life for the life of the world! The Holy Spirit was given to us to guide, comfort, and accompany us on our faith journey.

It is out of a deep sense of gratitude for all that God has given to us that we give our lives back to God. We do this by offering our time, our talent, and our treasure in service to God's people and purposes.

Careful and prayerful stewardship of the gifts we've received is an essential spiritual practice and also an ongoing faith commitment. I encourage all of you to be in prayer about how God is asking you to give to our ministry here at First Presbyterian Church in the coming year.

We rely on your gifts ~ tithes and offerings ~ to continue and expand our ministry. It is truly a gift to be able to participate in what God is doing here in our community and neighborhood! As we follow Christ's command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and visit those in prison, we serve not only our neighbors, but Christ himself. We are putting our faith into action and living it out. We are sharing God's light and love with those whom God has placed in our path and entrusted to our care.

As you are probably aware, there are ever increasing needs in our congregation and community. With this in mind, I want to challenge you to think about ways we could reach more people with the love of God and how your pledge could help make that happen! I want to encourage you to think of giving back to God *as a gift in itself*, an opportunity to be a true partner in Christ's ministry here on earth! What a gift it is to be able to express our deep gratitude to God for all God has done for us through a faithful response of generous giving! It is truly a gift to reflect God's character in the gift of giving!

If you haven't pledged in previous years, please consider doing so for the coming year. If you regularly pledge, we are very grateful and also humbly ask that you consider whether you are able to increase your pledge for 2022. If you are able to tithe, we are very grateful for your commitment!

In the hymn, God Whose Giving Knows No Ending, the first verse concludes: "Gifted by you, we turn towards you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days."

May we all be gracious givers to our shared mission and ministry!  
~Ann

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## WORSHIP

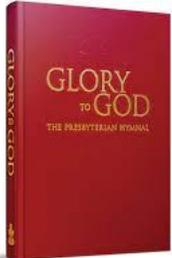
Worship (E) – Dan Reeves  
Dir. Of Music Ministries (Chair) – Mark Ramsey  
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

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

### Mark's Remarks

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

**"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.  
It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits." - Martin Luther**



World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 3rd. The service will include music and readings from around the world. We will also dedicate our new Glory to God hymnals and offer bookplates for the hymnals. If you will not be on campus that morning, just send an email to [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org) and request a bookplate form. Bookplates are offered for a donation of \$10 and may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Donation information is included on the bookplate form.

The Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs hymnals served FPC for more than a quarter century! Last year, they were retired in favor of our new Glory to God hymnals, and we will give away our old hymnals on World Communion Sunday. Enjoy the wealth of hymnody and devotional resources! Congregation members may also pick up a copy of the hymnal in the Church Office, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. weekdays excluding Fridays.

On World Communion Sunday 2020, we began campus reopening after seven months of online-only worship. Masks were required throughout the worship service, and hymns were only for listening! Twelve months later, we worship unmasked, we are able to sing with our masks on, and we are livestreaming worship services to our homes and to homes around the world. We share a renewed spirit of thanksgiving for one another and for the opportunities to gather together to worship our loving God. May He continue to bless our congregation as we seek to carry forward His love to future generations!

Ministry Fair on October 24th: Drop by the Worship Commission table for a *sweet* cream puff and to try a special music activity! Our annual FPC Ministry Fair will be presented on Sunday, October 24th, following worship, and we hope to livestream the Ministry Fair! Each Commission will display and advertise the activities of their various ministries. There will likely be a few activities which will be new to each of us!

### Coming Events

- 10/3 World Communion Sunday/Hymnal Dedication
- 10/31 Reformation Sunday/All Saints' Sunday
- 11/7 Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- 11/21 Thanksgiving Sunday
- 12/19 Music Sunday
- 2/13/2022 Worship led by The Blackwood Quartet, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/27/2022 Celebrating Black History Month with Special Music from Gospel Pianist Derek Rushing and Soprano Audrey Rushing
- 4/9/2022 & Palm Sunday 4/10/2022 - 75th Anniversary Celebrations of FPC!

### Humoresque

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

A fourth-grade teacher was giving her pupils a lesson in logic. "Here is the situation," she said. "A man is standing up in a boat in the middle of a river, fishing. He loses his balance, falls in, and begins splashing and yelling for help. His wife hears the commotion, knows he can't swim, and runs down to the bank. Why do you think she ran to the bank?" A girl raised her hand and asked, "To draw out all his savings?"



Women of the church are making plans for Fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas. All are welcome! There are opportunities to learn, teach, bake and sew. We thank God for our wonderful study leaders who gift us with their teaching talents in preparing and presenting the monthly lessons. It's not too late to join in, we are on Lesson 2, studying the story of Tamar. On the surface, it sounds like a soap opera, as she is passed from one brother to the next and then secretly beds her father-in-law to achieve pregnancy. After he demands death by stoning, she reveals herself and thus continues the ancestral lineage of Jesus. God is at work then as he is now. The lesson draws parallels to modern society as well as to our individual life experiences. At our Circle meetings we will study and share what Gods lessons teach us as we grow closer to Him.

Upcoming events include our Pre-Thanksgiving bake sale on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and our Holiday luncheon December 4th. We have some marvelous cooks in our midst, so be sure to mark your calendars. By the grace of God, my raspberry bushes overflow with fruit which will be sold in the form of (almost) seedless jam. I have been told its pretty tasty.

Peace be with you,  
Sara McWhorter, FPC-PW Moderator

**Save the Date!!!**

**75th anniversary celebration**

**For**

**First Presbyterian Church of Mesa!!**

**April 9-10, 2022**

**Saturday 4:00 ~ 7:00 pm**

The celebration will feature a reception in Fellowship Hall followed by a program in our Sanctuary.

Sunday will be a celebratory worship service on Palm Sunday (which is the same day as our very first worship service at FPC!!)

Please mark the date now and plan to join us for this celebratory occasion!!

## DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko  
Family Ministries (E) — Kristen Hull

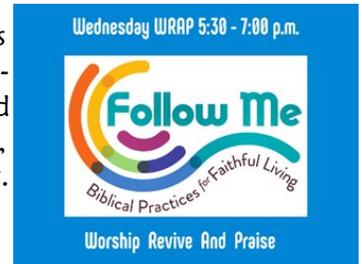
Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding

### October Faith Formation Happenings



**Trunk or Treat & Candy Donation.** Halloween is on a Sunday this year, and we will be having trunk or treat in our parking lot at **12:00 noon, October 31st**. While kids are at Sunday School, you can choose to put on a costume and/or decorate your vehicle (trunk) to look festive or spooky! (kid-friendly) You may want to set up lawn chairs by your trunk, so you can enjoy the event and hand out candy. Candy will be brought to your vehicle to hand out to those children trick or treating. Starting on Sunday, October 10th, we are requesting manufactured individually wrapped candy. Please place the sealed candy packages in the blue donation bin the Sundays leading up to October 31st. Hope you can attend this fun event for our children.

**Wednesday WRAP.** What are you doing Wednesday evenings? Please join us most Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for an intergenerational program that includes dinner, worship and Bible study for children, youth and adults. (*No WRAP October 6 due to Fall Break.*) Our curriculum is "Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living." These are practices Jesus did and taught. Simply sign-up at the door and enjoy an evening of worship, revive and praise.



**Weekly Youth Gatherings.** Our junior high and high school teens gather most Sundays at 11:20 a.m. in the youth room. Join us this Sunday for youth fellowship and God talk.

On Sunday, October 31st, our youth will be decorating a car to participate in Trunk or Treat.

We have rescheduled the youth bowling to **Sunday October 17th, 11:30-3:00 p.m.** Enjoy two-hours of bowling and food/drinks for around \$28 at Fat Cats, Gilbert. Please turn in permission forms and money by *October 3rd*. Permission forms are on the youth section of the website. Please contact Chris for further details. [chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)



**Youth Volunteer Opportunity.** We are inviting our youth to join us for a morning of volunteering at Midwest Food Bank on **Saturday November 20**. We will leave church at 8:30 a.m. and return around 12:30 p.m. Please complete the church's permission form as well as the Midwest Food Bank's online release of liability form. <https://x.gldn.io/s6s7lVBhbjb>

Blessings,  
Chris McKee  
Minister of Faith Formation  
[chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)



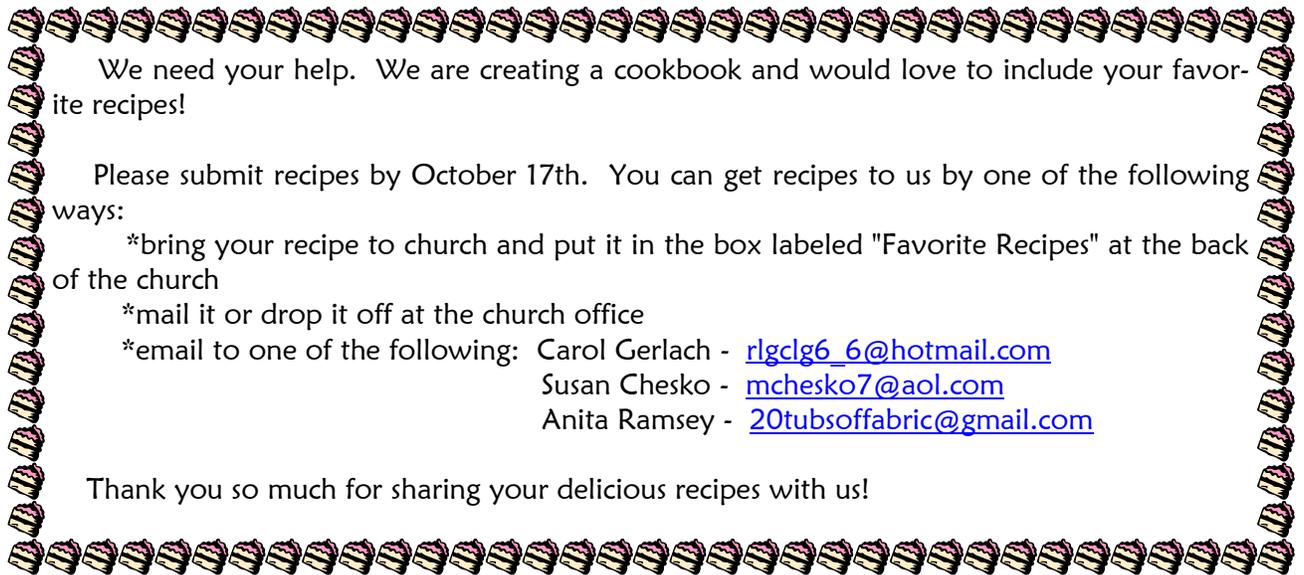
Well, isn't life sweet! I am so happy that we are back and so are the teachers, children and families that we serve. God is ever present and has been an important part of our new beginning. He has given us so much to be thankful for!

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. Since opening, we have started the new daily COVID health screenings and incorporated the help of the families to keep our environment clean, safe and healthy. It has been a real challenge to keep those masks out of the mouths of babes! It is a work in progress.

In other news, we are still enrolling children and have 10 scholarships still available and ready to start new families! Please spread the word and help us get those spots filled. We greatly appreciate it! 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. 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 re-started again!

Sincerely,  
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

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We need your help. We are creating a cookbook and would love to include your favorite recipes!

Please submit recipes by October 17th. You can get recipes to us by one of the following ways:

- \*bring your recipe to church and put it in the box labeled "Favorite Recipes" at the back of the church
- \*mail it or drop it off at the church office
- \*email to one of the following: Carol Gerlach - [rlgclg6\\_6@hotmail.com](mailto:rlgclg6_6@hotmail.com)  
Susan Chesko - [mchesko7@aol.com](mailto:mchesko7@aol.com)  
Anita Ramsey - [20tubsoffabric@gmail.com](mailto:20tubsoffabric@gmail.com)

Thank you so much for sharing your delicious recipes with us!



In a recent sermon, Rev. Ann spoke of our loving community of Faith, First Presbyterian Church of Mesa, turning our world upside down by providing an environment of love, acceptance and caring in an unsettled world. Laura and I have appreciated so much how your prayers, cards and calls have reminded us we belong to such a healing band of people. We have missed being in church with you each Sunday, but because of modern technology we continue to fellowship with you and pray for you. We are slowly recuperating from our minor setbacks this summer and look forward to being back in our beautiful sanctuary with such loving friends. Thanks again for being that community that turns our world right side up.

~ Jim and Laura Bruening

## MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg  
Pastor — Ann Conklin  
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

**Clothing closet updated opening date:** Thank you to all of you who have made donations to the clothing closet. It has been such a blessing. With all these wonderful donations though also comes a lot to organize into size and type. The Clothing Closet opening is being postponed until October 1st in order to give us enough time to organize the donations. Gently used donations are still being accepted, and we are looking forward to our October 1st opening.



**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 5th and going through World Communion Sunday on October 3rd, 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 is our decision and your mission commission decided that 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.

**Mesa’s Love Your City Day** is coming soon. We need two groups again this year. One group will help stuff informational pamphlets into bags on Thursday, October 21st, at 9:00 a.m. and the other group will deliver the bags to a neighborhood the morning of Saturday, October 23rd. This has been a wonderful tradition where we can give back to this wonderful city, so mark your calendars.

**The food pantry** has continued to stay in business serving our community throughout these last two years. We haven’t needed a lot of volunteers because our supplier prepares the bags for us. We still need the support of our congregation for donations to buy items that we know will be helpful to those in need. Items we could use now: canned meats, spaghetti pastas, cereals and snacks. Your cash donations are always appreciated and used to do thrift shopping for needed goods.

I have to thank Betty and Karelle again for doing all of our internet work and being there every week to give out food.

This mission project is going strong. Thank you for your prayers to keep us healthy.



~Sandy Clark

## 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
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
Katie McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInnelly	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.

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

Ann Conklin: [pastor@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmesa.org)  
Mark Ramsey: [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org)  
Chris McKee: [chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)  
Linda Reeves: [pubs@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pubs@fpcmesa.org)  
Don Krill: [buildings@fpcmesa.org](mailto:buildings@fpcmesa.org)  
Rob Kjar: [business@fpcmesa.org](mailto:business@fpcmesa.org)

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Carolyn Strouse  
2808 30th Street, SE  
Topeka, KS 66605

### Calendar Notes

#### October

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.  
In person or online

#### October 1

Clothing Closet opens

#### October 3

World Communion Sunday  
Deacons meet

#### October 11 & 12

Circles meet

#### October 17

Session meets  
Youth Bowling

#### October 21 & 23

Mesa's Love Your City Day(s)

#### October 24

Ministry Fair

#### October 31

Monthly Food Drive  
Trunk or Treat Event



*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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**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**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**