

# La Palabra

October 2022

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from David*

### Seasonal Change

One morning, in the autumn of the year, I was busy at work in my church office when I heard a man's voice explaining to my secretary that he was there to kidnap the pastor. Before I could process what was happening, he burst into my office and said, "Come on, you need to come with me." I said, "But I have work to do here."



Then this over-anxious parishioner forced me to prioritize my work by saying, "Tell me what you have to do today that is more important than photographing the changing leaves of autumn." I looked at my list, put it in the drawer of my desk, got my camera and off we went on an amazing adventure.

I think back on that *kidnapping* about this time of year because I suspect that God put him up to it. I mean, there I was tending to the business of the Lord in the church, and he wanted to show me what God was up to in the world beyond the church ~ changing one season to another with a magnificent display of color.

We who live in the desert may not see a burst of color at seasonal change, but as a church, we are entering a season of change and it is every bit as beautiful. In response to Dr. Sean Chow's call for *Revitalization*, I have gathered information from our deacons and elders, and have identified what I'm calling *Thresholds of Adventure*. Some of them are internal in nature, but a couple of them will draw us out into the neighborhood to discover how we can be church to those who live within walking distance of our campus.

Once again it feels as though the familiar church routine is being interrupted by an invitation to go out and discover what God is doing to change one season of church life into another, and to appreciate that there is always extraordinary beauty in times of transition. We may not be able to photograph it, but we can enjoy the fresh air of new ideas and experience the thrill of adventure.

And maybe when we look back on this time in the life of the church, we will have the sense that it was God all along who was *kidnapping* us by His invitation: "Come with me, leave the familiar behind, and let me show you how beautiful life can be when you live beyond walls of familiarity."

In the footsteps of the Master,  
David



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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

“Everything must be possible.” - J. S. Bach

The First Players will present their 24th annual production, *Singin' in the Rain*, this November 18,19,20. Tickets are available at [fpcmesa.org/firstplayers](http://fpcmesa.org/firstplayers) and will be available on Sunday mornings and in the Church Office beginning November 1st. Our production cast will feature Kate Buck as “Kathy Selden” and Brooks Newbry as “Don Lockwood.” [Note: if you purchased tickets in 2019, please send a note to [organstops@gmail.com](mailto:organstops@gmail.com) to have tickets reprinted and set aside for you at Will Call on your requested show date. In the email, please include your name, requested date, and number of tickets.]

All are invited to Karen Rudin's Studio Recital, a delightful evening of music for voice and a variety of instruments. The recital will be held on Tuesday, October 25th, at 6:00 p.m. in either the Sanctuary or Choir Room. Come and enjoy the musical talents of Karen's “Starshine” Music Studio.

MYSTERY BAND MEMBER - Thank you to those who submitted guesses for last month's Mystery Band Member. We had no winner. The great pic featured twirler Mary Jean Maedche! Here is this month's mystery band member. Send guesses to [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org) and include any photos of you in YOUR band uniform.



Fall choirs are in full swing, and each of our groups is already preparing for “Following Yonder Star,” this year's Music Sunday (December 18th). Please take a moment to visit the Music & Drama area of our church website, [fpcmesa.org/worship](http://fpcmesa.org/worship), which includes information on our Artist Series concerts,



music ministries, choir schedules, and our magnificent pipe organ!

[Bob and Greg in our newly modified soundbooth with our newly acquired tech toys! Many thanks to Dave's Crew for their soundbooth modifications, cutting and carving, enlarging the workspace, and keeping the booth upright and the wires connected to the correct equipment!]

### Coming Events

- 11/18-11/20 (Friday-Sunday) [Artist Series: First Players' 24th Annual Production, "Singin' in the Rain"](#).
- 11/22 (Tuesday) Advent Decorating: Carols by Candlelight, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- 12/18 Each of our Choirs will be a part of our Annual Music Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons and Carols, 6:00 p.m.
- 12/25 (Sunday), Christmas Day Worship, 10:00 a.m.

### Humoresque

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

A minister was giving one of his best sermons on tithing. The spirit of the congregation was electrified. People were excited. One of the deacons got so overwhelmed with the pastor's word that he wanted to do something to help, so he jumped to his feet and yelled, "A 10th isn't enough. Let's give a 20th!"



Perhaps you've heard by now that we had quite a lovely little tea on September 10th. It was a grand afternoon to share fun and fellowship and just enjoy being together! Our Women's Appreciation Tea recognized and applauded the talents and gifts of ALL the women of our church; their contributions, including prayer, obvious or quiet, help make worship, fellowship, education, music and missions meaningful for all. The PW ladies gave their all to provide yummy sandwiches and sweets, as well as preparing Fellowship Hall for afternoon tea. The array of beautiful teapots was amazing!

The tea also gave us an opportunity to share our excitement about PW Circles and our current Bible Study. We emphasized that all women are welcome without obligation to share in mutual support, love and the Word of God. Circles are celebrating the revitalization of PW through our study and missions, along with and in support of FPC Mesa's revitalization. Celebrating Sabbath, our study for this year, guides us toward balance and self-care while serving the Lord in all we do. And there's a harp, too! We invite you join us.

Eve Circle	Monday, October 9	4:00 p.m.	Parlor
Deborah Circle	Tuesday, October 10	9:30 a.m.	Parlor
Rachel Circle	Tuesday, October 10	1:00 p.m.	Parlor



Dear friends,

I want to thank all of you for your gifts, your smiles, and your good wishes as I leave my post as accompanist for the Sanctuary Choir. It has been a constant and sustaining joy to me that my contribution to the music program has been so well received, and I am grateful for the friendship and encouragement that you have given me over the years. Thanks again.

Bea Towe

Linda and I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness these last months. Your prayers, cards and messages have been just the encouragement needed at just the right times.

Dan Reeves

## DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children’s Ministries (E) — Susan Chesko  
 Youth/Young Adult (E) — Ian Harding

### October Faith Formation Happenings

**First Presbyterian Church Mesa**  
**Sunday, October 30th,**  
**12:45 p.m., Parking Lot**



**12:00 p.m. Lunch, Fellowship Hall**  
 161 N. Mesa Drive, Mesa  
 fpcmesa.org

**Trunk or Treat 2022.** Join us for a safe, sane family-friendly Halloween experience for the kids at First Presbyterian Church Mesa. On Sunday, October 30, 12:45 p.m., Trunk or Treat returns to our parking lot. Car trunks or truck beds will be festively decorated and participants donning their favorite Halloween costumes. Sandwiches will be available at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this kid friendly spooktacular event.

**Trunk or Treat Opportunities.** There are two ways you can help with our Annual Trunk or Treat event scheduled for Sunday, October 30. You



can donate individually wrapped candy and/or sign-up to participate by decorating your car. Sign-ups and our donation candy station will be in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings leading up to Trunk or Treat.

**Sunday School Opportunities.** Most Sundays at 11:20 a.m. (September through May)

AGE	LOCATION	CURRICULUM
Children	Jackson	Growing in Grace & Gratitude
Youth (Jr. High & Sr. High)	Youth Room	God Talk with Chris
Adults	Library	The Present Word



**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. Mini-Golf is our next youth activity on Sunday, October 23rd, 1:00 p.m. at Golfland Mesa.

**Men’s Fellowship Group.** Our Men’s Fellowship is now meeting in person on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.



**Koinonia Women’s Bible Study.** The Koinonia Women’s Bible Study starts a new study series on “Help is Here” by Max Lucado on **Thursday, October 6, from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact Karen Rudin at 480-233-1043 for more information.

**Wednesday WRAP.** What are you doing Wednesday evenings? Please join us most Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for an intergenerational program that includes dinner, worship and Bible study for children and adults. We will start our new Follow Me series, Practicing Generosity on October 12 (*No WRAP October 5 due to Fall Break*)





**Volunteer Opportunity for the Family.** We are inviting children, youth and adults to join us for a morning of volunteering at Midwest Food Bank on **Saturday, November 12, at 9:00 a.m. to noon.** We will meet up at 725 E. Baseline Rd., Gilbert and lend our hearts, hands and feet to help out. Please contact Chris McKee to sign-up or to get more details. [chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)

**Fat Cats Family Outing** on September 25. A great time was had by all!

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 almost full and has room for a few more kids in the 3-year-old classroom. 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, my body, and classic stories. We will also be doing puppet exploration and Halloween fun. And by the way, thank you to all of you who donated items, snacks and supplies for our school drive. It has really been a huge help to get us restarted again! We could still use any newspaper that you are discarding for our art centers if you have any... Lastly, we will be on Fall Break during the week of October 3-7 and hope to enjoy the fall weather changes. Please take a few minutes to enjoy the changing leaves, too. Happy Autumn!

Sincerely,  
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

### Preschool Chapel—September 27



## MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg  
Pastor – David Hodgson  
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

**Peace and Global Witness 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 4th and going through World Communion Sunday on October 2nd, 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 website. 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 FPC’s 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 Love Your City** is going to look a bit different this year. In lieu of the traditional Love Your City Day, they are doing a bunk bed build by joining Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a non-profit dedicated to providing beds to kids in need, in partnership with St. Luke's Lutheran Church and the City of Mesa for an interactive and fun service project! The project takes place on Saturday, October 15th, from 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Volunteers will engage in many different aspects of the build, including sorting and sanding lumber, assembling headboards and rails, staining bed components, loading bed components, and other misc. tasks. **NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED!** Our CarePortal ministry has been able to get these beds for CarePortal families in the past, so this will be a wonderful event!

**The Food Pantry needs your continued help!** In the past, United Food Bank helped us source most of the donations needed to help us run our Food Pantry. We recently lost these food donations and could really use your help. If you prefer to donate money instead, please make sure to put Food Pantry in the memo line. Please feel free to bring with you the following items which are collected every Sunday:

- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- A protein (canned chicken, tuna, chili, etc.)
- Toilet Paper is also requested regularly



## October Birthdays



## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Leigh, Virginia  
1505 E. Willis Rd.,  
Apt. 1120  
Gilbert, AZ 85297

Martz, Shirley  
8803 E. Indigo St.  
Mesa, AZ 85207  
480-708-0793

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
Don Krill	30th
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.

David Hodgson: [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)

### Calendar Notes

#### October

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

Youth meet at 11:20 a.m.  
Youth Room

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.  
Food Donations taken every Sunday

#### October 2

World Communion Sunday  
Clothing Closet donations accepted  
Deacons meet

#### October 9

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

#### October 10 & 11

Circles meet

#### October 12, 19, 26

WRAP meets

#### October 15

Mesa Love Your City Day

#### October 16

Session meets

#### October 30

Trunk or Treat

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

**LA PALABRA**

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**E-mail: [pubs@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pubs@fpcmesa.org)**

**Website: [www.fpcmesa.org](http://www.fpcmesa.org)**

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

**David Hodgson, Interim 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**