

# La Palabra

November 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!*

(Psalms 106, 118, 136)

Thanksgiving is the foundation for our lives of discipleship. Out of gratitude for the grace God has extended to us in Jesus Christ, we offer our lives back to God as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. That is the very essence of our Reformed theology. We are a people who give thanks to God!

Thanksgiving is woven all throughout our worship as well. We begin by singing praise to God and praying a prayer of adoration, thereby expressing our love for God. Even as we confess our sin, we give thanks for the forgiveness we receive in Christ and the new life we are offered again and again.

As a response to hearing and receiving the Word of God in Scripture and proclamation, we continue to worship God with our offerings. We express our thanks to God by giving a portion of the fruits of our labor. As we offer our time and talent to participate in God's mission in the world, we are expressing our gratitude for all God has done for us in Christ.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is centered around the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. Indeed, *eucharisteo* means to give thanks or express gratitude. Trinitarian in nature, this prayer recounts salvation history. Preparing us to celebrate this feast of thanksgiving, communion, and hope, the prayer praises and thanks God the Creator for the work of Jesus the Savior, and then asks the Holy Spirit to take us up into the life of God.

Yes, giving thanks is central to our lives as Christ-followers.

I give thanks to God for the wonderful and faithful people God has gathered into the congregation of FPC Mesa and the opportunity we have to become a beloved community together. I give thanks for your many and varied gifts & talents that God weaves together to empower our shared ministry. I give thanks for the tithes and offerings that make our ministry possible. I give thanks for the gift of serving as your pastor. To God be the glory! Amen!

~ Ann

P.S. I want to remind everyone that I typically don't check email on Friday or Saturday as Friday is intended to be my Sabbath and Saturday is for final sermon prep and other church and Presbytery related activities. As always, if there is an urgent need, please text or call my cell phone which is listed in the directory. Thank you for understanding!

Grace & peace to you all!

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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**

Pianist-Composer Joel Raney will perform in our Sanctuary on Saturday, November 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$10. Joel will share his arrangements of a variety of songs, hymns, and spirituals. Then join Joel in worship at 10:00 a.m. on November 3rd as the Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, Organist Barbara Walker, and Pianist Bea Towe present “One Faith, One Hope, One Love,” a commissioned anthem to be conducted by the composer, Joel Raney!

Plan to be a part of this year’s “Carols by Candlelight.” The event will take place on Sunday, November 24th. We’ll meet in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. to hang Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, then we’ll enjoy a catered supper (5:30) followed by a brief time to sing some carols in our candlelit Sanctuary (6:15). Reservations are necessary for supper. Please leave a message for Mark Ramsey in the Church Office (Ext. 103) by Monday, November 18th, if you plan to attend. Chris McKee will also lead an Advent Celebration for the kids, so bring the whole family as we gather for a festive start to the Advent Season.



The First Players will present their 24th annual theatrical production, *Singin' in the Rain*, on March 27-29. Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 23rd, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For audition information, contact Mark Ramsey, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Audition librettos and schedules will be available

in the Church Office on Sunday, November 10th.

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas. If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to be used in Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary during the Advent season, order forms are available at the kiosk or in the Church Office. The poinsettias are \$10 apiece. Please return the form, with payment attached, to the church office. Deadline for response is December 16th.

All-Church Caroling Party  
Sunday, December 8th  
5:00 p.m. meet in the FPC Youth Room  
6:30 Christmas Treats at Friendship Village

## Humoresque

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

A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it's 3:00 in the morning, and it's bloomin' well pouring with rain out there!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people, too, you know." The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband. "Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband. "Over here on the swing," replied the drunk. [from Barb Walker]

### Coming Events

- 11/2,11/3 Piano Concert by Joel Raney and Commissioned Anthem in Combined Worship Service
- 12/5 Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir performing in the new state-of-the-art Wildlife Amphitheater at Phoenix Zoolights!
- 12/22 Music Sunday: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Lifetouch logo is written in a blue, cursive script font. The word "Lifetouch" is in a larger font size than the word "touch", and there is a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the word "touch".

### SAVE THE DATE!

Lifetouch Photography will be here on **January 7, 2020**, to update our pictorial directory.

If you are happy with the picture that is in our current directory, you are under no obligation to have it redone. However, if you are a new member, missed out on the last photo shoot, have had a baby or some other life change, you are welcome to have a new picture taken. Lifetouch will reprint the directory with your picture and will also update address and phone changes,

Watch for more information coming soon in La Palabra and in the Sunday bulletins.

## 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

**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.

**Advent Celebration:** Believe it or not we are a few short weeks from the Advent season. Come join us on November 24th at 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. as we prepare our church space with the festive décor of the Christmas season and enjoy pizza together as a church family. Special Advent arts and crafts will be available for the kids. Following the Advent crafts and dinner we will convene in the sanctuary for "Carols by Candlelight."

**Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser.** The Annual Youth Gift Wrapping Fundraiser is around the corner. FPC Youth will be gift wrapping after the 9:00 a.m. worship on December 8th, December 15th and December 22nd. The funds will support our youth ministry program.

#### 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 assist the kids with crafts during the Advent Celebration on November 24th.

#### Youth Calendar (Events might change so stay tuned.)

- November 10th – Youth Coffee Run, Dutch Brothers during Sunday school.
- November 10th – Rock Climbing at Focus Climbing Center, depart church at 12:30 p.m. and return to church at 3:30 p.m. In addition to the church's permission forms, participants need to complete an online waiver at [www.focusclimbingcenter.com](http://www.focusclimbingcenter.com). The cost is \$20. Please get your permission forms and money in by Sunday, November 3rd.
- November 23rd – Join us for a volunteering opportunity at Midwest Food Bank. 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 release of liability form.

Please contact Chris McKee, our Minister of Faith Formation with any questions: [Chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:Chris@fpcmesa.org)

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace program will be started in early January. If you are interested in attending or have questions on this event, please contact Jan Montgomery 602-618-6048 or [jan.montgomery47@gmail.com](mailto:jan.montgomery47@gmail.com).



We hope that you can find time to stop and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and share the time outside with your families. We've been spending more time outside with this great weather and love the feeling that is in the air. There are lots of things going on around the preschool right now, too. We have just finished painting rocks to put into our preschool garden! We hope that you can stop by and see how they look with our vegetables we have growing right now. We also have picture

day coming up. We enjoy taking the class picture to capture the smiles of all the children and this is a great time for the families to showcase their kiddos to family and friends with the individual pictures, too.

Also, we will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving feast for the preschool families on Tuesday, November 26th, at 10:45 a.m. If you would like to donate holiday decorations, paper goods or snacks (cheese sticks, chicken nuggets, carrots, ranch, cookies or juice boxes) for that day, we would greatly appreciate it. We seat all 30 children and their families, typically hosting about 75-80 people. Thank you for your generosity!

We are truly blessed to be a part of the First Presbyterian Mission here at the Preschool. We want to make a special shout out and thank you to Dennis Sitzler and Dave's Crew for the beautiful bench refinishing that has been done! They are coming along nicely and look fantastic! Thank you for all of your support, love and prayers!

Shiloh Murillo, Director

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## 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



Susan Durand and Suzanne Engman attended the PW Synod of the Southwest, Triennial Gathering, at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson. It was three days of seeing familiar and new faces, great workshops with many thought-provoking discussions, beautiful views, wonderful fellowship and of course, food and music.

The Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale is on the calendar again this year for Sunday, November 24th, between the two services. It was fun last year including the congregation in sharing everyone's homemade goodies. We look forward to seeing more favorite desserts, jams, nuts and surprises. All proceeds will go to the PW missions.

The PW Holiday Luncheon will be Saturday, December 14th. Carol Main, our USA Mission Experience representative will be our guest speaker.



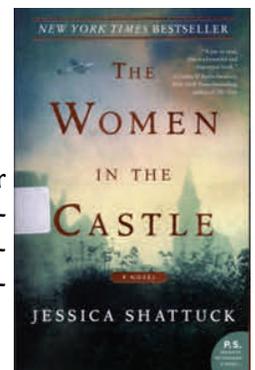
### USA Mission Experience in the Finger Lakes of New York "Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women"

Learn about the struggles to gain rights for women that began in Seneca Falls, New York, in July of 1848. Famous people like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, William H. Seward and wife, Frances, participated in the fight for women's rights and abolition of slavery. Many slaves sought freedom through the Underground Railroad that allowed them to escape into Canada. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to become a medical doctor in the United States in 1847 from Geneva Medical College in Geneva, New York. On who's shoulders do you stand?

Books from the 2019-20 reading list are on the PW shelf in the library.

*The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck

Marianne von Lingenfels is the widow of one of the men who was executed for planning to assassinate Hitler. As they are making their plan, Marianne promises her husband she will take care of the women and children in case they fail. She keeps her promise with courage, determination and ingenuity. through all the hardship there are glimmers of hope and joy.



## 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



**Christmas Angel Tree** – Once again this year FPC Mesa is sponsoring local families in need this Christmas. We will be providing gifts for each family. The Christmas Angel Tree will be set up in the Sanctuary on December 1st, and decorated with paper angel ornaments labeled with family names and designated gift items. Please take an angel from the tree and purchase the gift requested. Wrap your gift with holiday paper and attach the angel on the outside of the gift. Gifts will be delivered on December 15th after church. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Gibson at 480-834-3211. Thank you for your support of this long-

standing Christmas tradition.

**Love Your City Day** – Thank you to all of our volunteers for the Love Your City Day (previously Mesa Make a Difference Day). We had several volunteers on September 21st help stuff bags with City of Mesa resource material and a small, but mighty group on September 28th delivering the bags door to door.



Thank you all for your donations of spaghetti last month. We can always use spaghetti. The pantry has plenty of sauce, but no pasta!

The holidays are coming, and we would like to have some seasonal items: Stove Top stuffing, mashed potato packets, as well as chili or canned meats. We never need canned vegetables or fruits.

This important mission of the church is truly blessed by people like you.

-- Sandy

If you are interested in supporting I-HELP, a ministry with homeless women, here is an excellent opportunity!

**What:** Spirit of Jazz Festival: A benefit for I-HELP Ministries

**When:** Friday evening, November 8, 2019, 5:30 Dine on the Patio  
Food Trucks available from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, 1159 Greenfield Road, Gilbert

Enjoy a wonderful variety of jazz musicians! Come out for a night of fun and support this ministry that provides emergency overnight shelters, meals, showers, case management services, and connections to community services.



# November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Steve Muth	2nd
Jane Potyka	2nd
Scot Logan	3rd
Jack Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
Vivian Hoyman	8th
Amanda Hoyman	11th
William Letizia	11th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Martha Bienert	21st
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Ainslie Read	22nd
Mary Beth McMichael	23rd
Gail Wylie	23rd
Lois Hildenbrand	26th
Flinn Lund	26th
John John Schlak	26th
Karyn Weaver	27th
Jade Fleener	29th
Bob Free	29th
Arlene Wagner	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.



## Calendar Notes

### November 1

Office closed

### November 2

Mark Ramsey's 25th Anniversary Celebration —  
Dinner & Joel Raney Concert

### November 3

One 10:00 service of celebration  
featuring premiere of  
*One Faith, One Hope, One Love*

### November 11 & 12

Circles meet

### November 17

Commissions & Session meet

### November 24

Monthly Food Drive  
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Decorating  
Carols by Candlelight

### November 28

Happy Thanksgiving!

### November 29

Office closed



## IN MEMORIAM

Alma Post — October 15, 2019



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

See calendar on website:  
[fpcmesa.org/calendar](http://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**

**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**