

La Palabra

November 2021

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Thanksgiving: It's more than a Thursday in November!

*O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples. (1 Chronicles 16:8)*

As Christians, our mode of being is one of thanksgiving! All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God, and we express our gratitude by offering our thanks and praise ~ our gratitude ~ back unto God! It is more than a holiday which falls on a Thursday in late November; it is a way of life!

As we turn the calendar to November, I am reminded about so many things for which I give thanks. I am thankful for our times of worship together when I experience God's presence in and through the gathered people of God. I am thankful for the leaders of the congregation: Elders who wrestle with difficult decisions to lead us forward in ministry and Deacons who are regularly reaching out to serve and connect with members of the congregation. I am thankful for many hard-working committees such as finance, personnel, nominating, and endowment. My gratitude extends to all involved in our ministry and mission: those who serve in our Food Pantry, I-HELP, CarePortal, and Clothing Closet ministries. I give thanks for the many hands and hearts who contribute to all that makes Wednesday WRAP so wonderful; for "Dave's Crew" who gather regularly to maintain our facility, for all who study the Bible together seeking to follow ever more faithfully in the Way of Jesus Christ – whether it's in a Presbyterian Women's circle, a mid-week men's or women's Bible study, during a Sunday morning adult education class, or in a small group. I am grateful for those who greet us with a warm smile on Sunday mornings, those who organize and participate in our prayer chain, those who teach our children, and for all involved in our many wonderful music ministries.

God has knit us together in love and for love. Let us not forget to count the many blessings within our congregation and offer frequent prayers of thanksgiving to God. The great company of saints is surely among those blessings and this coming Sunday, October 31st, in recognition of All Saints Day, we will remember and honor those who have passed on to life eternal and the Church Triumphant. For all who have gone before us and for all among us, we give thanks to the Lord. Amen!

~ 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**

Poinsettias will be displayed in our Sanctuary during the Advent season, and this year, we will be ordering only live poinsettias. Each plant will be offered for a donation of \$10. Please use this [FORM](#) for each poinsettia ordered (printed forms will be available in the Sanctuary). Send a check to the church (payable to "First Presbyterian Church," with memo notation "Poinsettias") or contribute via our [online giving](#). For online giving, use the category "Worship Supplies/Decorations." Your poinsettia(s) may be left with the church or taken following the second service on Christmas Eve. The deadline for orders is December 13th.

Bookplates are being offered for our Glory to God hymnals and may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Donation information is included on the bookplate forms, which are available on the Sanctuary tables and may be [downloaded here](#) or [completed online!](#)



Theatrical Ministries Production of *The Gospel According to Scrooge*. The production will feature Dr. Glenn Bennett and is offered as a gift to our congregation and community by our Church Artist Series. Join us on Sunday, December 12th, at 2:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary!

Advent Decorating of our Sanctuary will be held on Monday, November 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to share in the decorating, please leave a message for Mark Ramsey at (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103.

Coming Events

- 12/12 The Gospel According to Scrooge, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- 12/19 Music Sunday: "Celebrate the Day!"
- 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, 10:00 a.m.

Humoresque

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

A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. "Amazing," he thought as he flew down I-95, pushing the pedal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a Florida State Trooper, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this!" and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival. Pulling in behind him, the trooper got out of his vehicle and walked up to the Corvette. He looked at his watch, then said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a new reason for speeding -- a reason I've never before heard -- I'll let you go." The old gentleman paused then said: "Three years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back." "Have a good day, Sir," replied the trooper.



PW Circles in November will be delving into Lesson three in the study book “What My Grandmothers Taught Me; Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus” by Meryl Blair. Here we have another grandmother on Jesus’ genealogy chart whose reputation is less than stellar. (Scripture in Joshua 2; 6:22-25) Rehab is locally considered a foreigner, who supports herself and her family as an inn keeper and prostitute. They appear to live in the ghetto area, the outskirts of the city that is most vulnerable to attack. This is where the spies, whom Joshua sent, stop to gather info. When the king orders Rahab to give up these men, she does not let fear affect her faith in God. She ignores the king’s orders and hides the spies. Her wit and presence of mind allowed God’s plans to come to fruition. “By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedience” (Hebrews 11:31). She cuts loose from all the restrictions placed on her by social position, economic constraints, gender and race, and calls us to look more carefully for God’s presence around us and within us (pg. 34). Please join us by attending one of our four Circles to learn more about these awe-inspiring women in Jesus’ family tree.

Another purpose of PW is our support of the mission of the church worldwide and work for justice and peace. Most of this is accomplished through contributions to a variety of mission projects. Our funds come from member pledges and our one fundraiser which will be held in a few weeks. We are getting excited for this upcoming Bake Sale which will be held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 21st) in the Fellowship Hall following service. Anyone and everyone in the congregation is invited to bake something. The info on labeling and packaging guidelines is available in the office or you can text or e-mail me and I’ll send you a copy. And, of course, everyone is welcome to come peruse the bounty of our good Presbyterian bakers! Yum-yum!

Sara McWhorter, FPC Mesa PW Moderator



Presbyterian Women Bake Sale

The PW Bake Sale will be November 21st following service in Fellowship Hall. Skip the hot kitchen and let the fabulous Presbyterian cooks do your Thanksgiving baking for you!



Thank you so very much for all of the cards and expressions of love and care in recognition of Pastor Appreciation month. I appreciate your appreciation! May the many blessings of God be with you all!!
~ Ann

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

November Faith Formation Happenings



Wednesday WRAP. Consider joining us for WRAP on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. WRAP is dinner, worship and Bible study for children, youth and adults. (*No WRAP November 17th and 24th*) 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 for pray, play and God talk.



Youth Volunteer Opportunity. We are inviting our youth to join us for a morning of volunteering at Midwest Food Bank on **Saturday November 20th**. 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/s6s7IVBhbjb> Email Chris for details: chris@fpcmesa.org

Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser. The Youth will be gift wrapping to support their youth ministry program on November 28th, December 5th, and December 12th. Please drop off your labeled unwrapped gifts at the designated cart in front of the sanctuary before worship and pick up your wrapped gift by 12:15 p.m. at the youth room.



Blessings,
Chris McKee
Minister of Faith Formation
chris@fpcmesa.org



Hello FPC friends!

The preschool has been busy with Fall activities and enjoying the weather changing just a bit! We are so blessed to have the 22 children in our care, and we love hearing their laughter, watching them discover new things and make life-long friendships.

We are very aware of the real and present health concerns in our community, and we are focused on doing our part to welcome families to a healthy and safe environment. The first few months have worked out well for all of us so far, but it cannot be understated how important each one of us is to the entire process to move through and past this phase in history.

During November we will be continuing some of our Preschool Traditions by hosting some fun things for the families like having our Thanksgiving Family Feast on November 23rd at 10:45 a.m. or getting our school pictures taken as a class, too! We hope to welcome many more families into our program in the coming months as the Mesa community At-Large rebuilds their trust in bringing children back to school. Please help us get the word out and share our information with others who have preschool-aged children who could benefit. Scholarships are still available, too!

I am so thankful for all of your prayers and support for the preschool!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Shiloh Murillo, Director



It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas. If you are interested in ordering a live poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to be used in the Sanctuary during the Advent season, order forms are available in the Sanctuary, the church office or can be ordered online using this [FORM](#). The poinsettias are \$10 apiece. Please return the form, with payment attached, to the church office. Deadline for response is December 13th.

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



Peace and Global Witness Special Offering – Thank you for donating to the Peace and Global Witness offering. Together we raised \$1,805. \$451.25 will support our mission coworkers and the ministry of Frontera de Cristo.

Christmas Angel Tree: FPC is sponsoring three needy neighborhood families this Christmas. We will be providing gifts and a holiday meal for each family. The Christmas Angel Tree will be set up in the Sanctuary a few days before Sunday, November 28th, 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 and food will be delivered on Sunday, December 19th. If you would like to help deliver the gifts and food, contact: Dale Gibson. Thank you for your support of this long-standing Christmas tradition.



Household and personal care items for families on the Christmas Angel Tree are also needed. There will be a collection box in the church office to receive toilet paper, shampoo, laundry detergent, light bulbs, Kleenex, dish detergent and bath soap. We appreciate all contributions to this project.

Love Your City Day was started on Thursday, October 21st, by putting brochures together in bags and then they were delivered to a Mesa neighborhood on Saturday, October 23rd. A huge Thank You to everyone who participated!



MESA LOVE YOUR CITY DAY — 2021



November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Rosa Befidi-Mengue	3rd
Scot Logan	3rd
Chris McKee	5th
Jack Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
William Letizia	11th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Lubna Dent	22nd
Ainslie Read	22nd
Gail Wylie	23rd
Lois Hildenbrand	26th
Flinn Lund	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.

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

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


IN MEMORIAM

Dick Koch — October 6, 2021
 Burt Newbry — October 7, 2021
 Steve Muth — October 12, 2021



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Buck, Kate
 6510 E. Riverdale St.
 Mesa, AZ 85215

Leigh, Virginia
 American Groves
 941 E. Elliot Rd.
 Gilbert, AZ 85234

Schultz, Allan
 No home #, only cell #

Calendar Notes

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

November 3 & 17
 Women's Bible Study

November 6
 Men's Breakfast

November 7
 Deacons meet

November 8 & 9
 Circles meet

November 20
 Youth to Midwest Food Bank

November 21
 Session meets

November 22
 Advent Decorating

November 25
Happy Thanksgiving!
 (Office closed Friday, November 26)

November 28
 Monthly Food Drive
 Youth Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser begins

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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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