

La Palabra

A Message from David

A special season of giving thanks is upon us once again, and I rejoice in it! Between the recreation of summer and the celebration of Christmas, we are called together as a people to give thanks to God.

Thanksgiving, as you know, is not a national holiday established by Congress, but one that is created each year by presidential proclamation ~ the president calling upon the nation to give thanks to Almighty God.



George Washington declared in his proclamation in 1789 that *it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor.*

Abraham Lincoln called the nation to Thanksgiving during the Civil War. *In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, he wrote, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict. ... No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.* How amazing is that!

We will begin the month with stewardship Sunday on November 6th, and will conclude the month gathered as families in celebration of gratitude to God. There are cynics out there already suggesting that with all the chaos of politics and the cost of inflation that maybe we are not in a good place to celebrate Thanksgiving. But for those who can still count their blessings and rejoice in the privilege of life with God, this season of giving thanks will always transcend the political chaos and economic hardships.

Let us give thanks to God with joyful hearts as we prepare to celebrate the coming among us of the Prince of Peace.

Thanksgiving blessings,
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

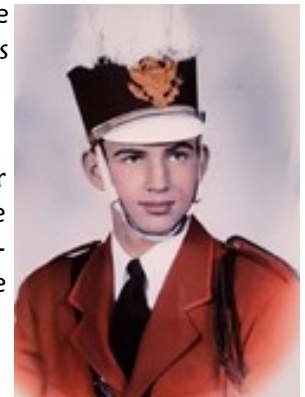
“Everything must be possible.” - J. S. Bach

Get your tickets! The First Players will present their 24th annual production, Singin' in the Rain, this month! The production will be held in Fellowship Hall on November 18,19, and 20. Tickets are available at 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,” Brooks Newbry as “Don Lockwood,” and Bob Blincoe as “Cosmo Brown.” [Note: if you purchased tickets in 2019, please send a note to 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.]



Poinsettias will be displayed in our Sanctuary during the Advent season. 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](#) (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.

MYSTERY BAND MEMBER - Thank you to those who submitted guesses for last month's Mystery Band Member. We had a winner! Jack Oliver uncovered the distinguished Don Wallen! Here is this month's mystery band member. Send guesses to music@fpcmesa.org. If you would like to be included in a future issue, please send to the same email address a photo of you in your band uniform.



Sanctuary Advent Decorating will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd, 4:00—7:00PM. If you would like to join us for dinner and decorating, please leave a message for Mark Ramsey at (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103 or organstops@gmail.com.

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 man, his wife, and his mother-in-law go on vacation to the Holy Land. While they are there, the mother-in-law passes away. The undertaker tells them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5000 or bury her here for \$150." The man thinks about it and tells him he wants her shipped home. The undertaker asks, "Why would you spend \$5000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to have her buried here and spend only \$150?" The man replies, "A man died here 2,000 years ago, and was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead...I just can't take that chance." [Mary Jean Maedche]



Stock up for Thanksgiving PW/All-church BAKE SALE

PW Fund Raiser for Mission Projects

Sunday, November 20th, during fellowship time

Men and women of the congregation are invited to contribute their culinary specialties to the PW Bake Sale. Items must be packaged and ready to sell. Please note on the item of allergy-sensitive ingredients or any special instructions. Thank you!



When do I bring my donation? Saturday morning, November 19th, 10:00 to noon: Bring donations to the church library. A crew will be available to receive and price items.

Sunday morning, November 20th, 9-10 a.m.: If you are unable to get your food to the kitchen on Saturday, it will be fine to bring it to church on Sunday.

Meanwhile, many PW members attended the Synod Women's Retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center October 28-30 and learned even more about Celebrating Sabbath. Our Bible Study has guided us through viewing Sabbath as a celebration, considering Sabbath through creation, as even God rested on the seventh day, and regarding Sabbath as designating time to strengthen our friendship with God.

Join us, ladies, at a Circle meeting in November: **Deborah** meets at 9:30 a.m. on November 8th, **Rachel** meets at 1:00 p.m. on November 8th, and **Eve** meets at 4:00 p.m. on November 14th. All meet in the Parlor.



Dave's Crew Helpers Needed! Are you handy, mechanically inclined and want to help out around the church? Dave's Crew is looking for a few extra hands to do minor repairs and building projects at church. Join us Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. at the church office and you don't need to be named Dave to help. Please call Jack Oliver for more details 480-201-8078.

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

November Faith Formation Happenings

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

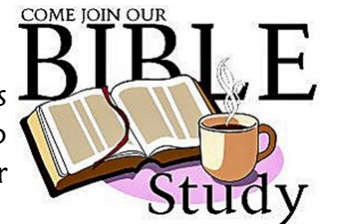
AGE	LOCATION	CURRICULUM
Children	Jackson	Growing in Grace & Gratitude
Youth (Jr. High & Sr. High)	Youth Room	God Talk with Chris
Adults	Library	The Present Word

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.



Men’s Fellowship Group. The Men's Fellowship Group is now meeting in person on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Please email Paul Soderquist pfsod77@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

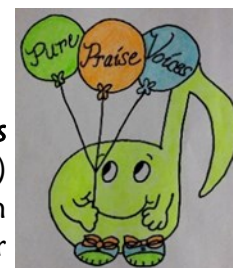
Koinonia Women’s Bible Study. The Koinonia Women’s Bible Study meets via Zoom on Thursdays from 2:30—4:00 p.m. Their current study is “Help is Here” by Max Lucado. Please contact Karen Rudin at 480-233-1043 for more information.



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. WRAP is on Thanksgiving break November 16th and 23rd and returns for WRAP Advent Edition November 30.

Two Children’s Choir Opportunities

- **Kids Praise Singers** (Sunday School Children)
Rehearse the first 10 minutes of Sunday School, Jackson
- **P u r e P r a i s e V o i c e s**
Pure Praise Voices (Grades 2-8)
Wednesdays 4:45—5:25 p.m., Choir Room
Focus on singing basics and theater





Volunteer Opportunity for the Family. Since we are in the season of giving we are inviting children, youth and adults to join us for a morning of volunteering at Midwest Food Bank on **Saturday, November 12th, 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

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 29 children in our care, and we love hearing their laughter, watching them discover new things and make life-long friendships.

We are aware of the present health concerns in our community, and we are focused on doing our best 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 a few fun things for the families like having our Thanksgiving Family Feast on November 22nd at 10:45 a.m. or offering another Parenting class in our series facilitated by Anita Ramsey and Susan Chesko. We hope to continue to build the trust in the Mesa community around us by offering top quality preschool programming for everyone!

I am so thankful for all of your prayers and support for the preschool! It has meant so much to me and the mission of this church!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Shiloh Murillo, Director



Sometimes all someone needs to get better is a good prayer to the Lord from another person on his/her behalf. I am on the road to recovery thanks to all of you, my friends. God is good! Thank you!

Darlene Sitzler

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



Clothing Closet now open Mondays and needs volunteers - The Clothing Closet team is excited to announce that they are adding an additional day that the Clothing Closet will be open. In addition to Fridays from 8:00—9:00 a.m., they will now be open Mondays from 8:00—9:00 a.m. as well. There is a core of experienced volunteers that are looking for extra hands and help during these hours. Volunteering couldn't be easier because you will be paired with a more experienced volunteer and there is no need to RSVP, just show up on the day that you are avail-

able, and the team will gladly accept any help that they can get. The current volunteers have wonderful stories that they can share where they have had the privilege of being Jesus's hands and helping serve the community. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Renita Jurgensen.

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 27th, 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 18th. If you would like to help deliver the gifts and food, contact: Dale Gibson. Thank you for your support of this longstanding 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.



Peace and Global Witness Offering raised \$2290. 50% of the offering goes to PCUSA for supporting those who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the world. 25% goes to mid council to support regional ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. 25% (\$572.50) goes 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.

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



Did you know that we have a columbarium?

A Columbarium is an area designed to keep the remains of a family member or loved one. Dedicated on Easter Sunday 2005, our Columbarium is located between the Sanctuary and the Trinity Building and is known as the Clarence Brehm Prayer Garden.

A separate Columbarium account, funded by the sale of single and double niches, is maintained to provide perpetual care for the area and build a future wall of another 64 niches when the need arises. Currently 59 of the 64 niches are being used or are reserved for future use. There are five niches available for purchase. All 64 niches can be occupied by two urns or just one. The cost of a

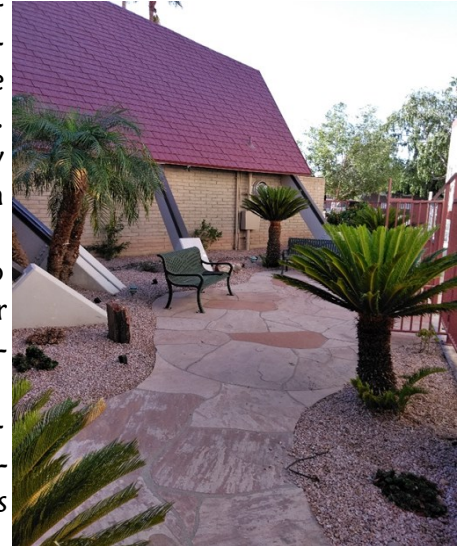
single urn is \$600. A double urn is \$1,000.

In addition, we have a Memorial Wall with name plates to the left of the niches for those who wanted a family member or loved one to be remembered in the Prayer Garden but not necessarily to be in a niche. The cost of a name plate is \$109.

If you have not yet made arrangements for your final expenses, I would encourage you to consider our Columbarium. The average cremation cost, depending on the type of service you want, is \$925 with a funeral service plus the cost of a niche.

I am available to discuss the option of a Columbarium at any time and have all the information to help you make a decision if you have not already done so. My email is allanandrea3@msn.com or call me at 480-720-0761.

Allan Schultz



Join us at our 10:00 worship service on November 6th in person or online for FPC Mesa's Dedication Sunday. Please return your 2023 Estimate of Giving on or before that date.

Thank you,
Brent Gregory, Stewardship Elder

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

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
 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

Calendar Notes

November

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

Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

November 2 & 16

Women's Bible Study

November 2, 9, 30

WRAP meets

November 6

Stewardship Sunday

All Saints Day

Deacons meet

Session meets

November 8

Deborah & Rachel Circles meet

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 12

Midwest Food Bank Service Project

November 14

Eve Circle meets

November 18, 19, 20

Singin' in the Rain Theater

November 20

PW Bake Sale

November 24

Happy Thanksgiving!



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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Mesa, AZ 85201**

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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**