

La Palabra

November 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

When Summer Slips Into Autumn

In the Northeast, it was easy to tell when summer slipped quietly into autumn. The leaves would reveal their favorite colors, and there would be a chill in the air that would quicken the step of shoppers and cause even strangers to stand a little closer to each other, warmed by their common humanity.



You can tell that I'm a bit nostalgic in that regard. However, I love living in the desert and have made myself at home here for more than three decades, but I have to say that the signs of seasonal change are different here, and that takes getting used to. I now know that autumn is near when the rye grass goes in, and when the pool is too cold to swim in.

It is all about adjusting to seasonal change, and coming to terms with the fact that God designed the changing seasons to help us understand the changing seasons of life. For it is in those changing seasons that we learn to leave behind childish behaviors, and live with confidence and courage into all of the challenges and stages of adulthood. Therein we learn from our mistakes, are strengthened by our struggles, discover the maturity of meekness and the priceless virtue of humility. These, to name a few, for they are countless.

The changing seasons of church life are also beautiful to behold, and to experience. In those transitions we feel most profoundly the movement of the Holy Spirit. Holding on to sameness and familiarity tends to stifle the Holy Spirit, while participating in transition awakens a spirit of adventure that prepares us for the new life that the Lord is drawing us into as a family of faith.

Our PNC lives on the threshold of that adventure, and asks once more to be sustained by our prayers. And staying in touch with the unchanging nature of God in prayer is, and always has been, the best way to move through all the change that life requires in order to prepare us for the Homecoming that awaits us all.

When summer slips into autumn, it's time to count our blessings and praise God. Our blessings abound!

David

INDEX

<i>A Message from David</i>	1
<i>From the Clerk's Desk</i>	2
<i>Worship</i>	3
<i>Fellowship</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	3
<i>Mission</i>	3
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	4
<i>November Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Address Changes</i>	6
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	website

From the Clerk's Desk

News from the OCTOBER Session meeting.



Clerk's Statistics for September

- No weddings, births, baptisms or deaths
- Membership 235
- Avg. Attendance 81 in-person & 97 online = 178

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Committee Motions

Children's & Family Ministries – Kyle Harding	A motion that we make a Sensory Room for Autistic Kids by remodeling the Quiet Room in accordance with City of Mesa Guidelines to accommodate both situations, as a pathway to becoming autistic certified. MOTION CARRIED
Youth/Young Adults – Ian Harding	A motion that the youth be permitted to repaint one of the Youth Room walls with a new mural, since we have a few young adults who are artistically talented. Session to be informed of what the mural will be before beginning. MOTION CARRIED
Mission – Susan Chesko	A motion to set Saturday, March 16, to schedule the Spring Festival to give her time to book different groups to come. MOTION CARRIED
Worship – Dan Reeves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion that audio upgrades be made to the Sanctuary Sound Booth. MOTION CARRIED • A motion to change the Christmas Eve Service from 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from a candle-light service (because it won't be dark at 3:00 p.m.) to a joy service. MOTION CARRIED

Other Motions

Pastoral Assistant's Report – Paul Soderquist	A motion to drive Pastor David's convertible in Mesa's Veterans' Day Parade with magnetic signs on the doors saying <i>THANK YOU VETERANS from First Presbyterian Church of Mesa</i> and have two or three Veterans riding in the car and any other FPC Veterans (who want to) <i>walk</i> alongside with a banner. MOTION CARRIED
---	---

Congratulations!

Philip Douglas McGrath was born on October 20, 2023.
Proud Parents are Michael and Ines McGrath.

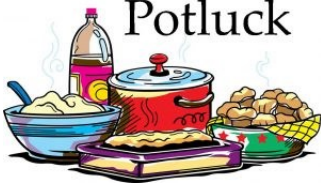
Worship

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, the Worship Committee and Session have agreed to try something different by combining the regular Sunday morning and evening services into one afternoon service. We hope you'll agree this will leave the morning free for any last minute and Christmas day preparations you may have, and the evening free for those of you who have special dinner or other evening traditions for Christmas Eve. We also know that some find it difficult to drive in the twilight or nighttime hours and hope this will alleviate those concerns as well. Please plan to join us for this year's Christmas Eve service of traditional readings, carols and candlelight at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Poinsettias will again be available to adorn the Sanctuary this Christmas season. The cost will be \$10 for each poinsettia. Watch for the forms and a link to be available the middle of November.

Monthly Potluck



Fellowship

Everyone is invited to a potluck lunch after worship on November 26th! Please bring a dish to share. A good time will be had by all!

Discipleship

The Adult Sunday School is changing their meeting time. They will now meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Library. Children's Sunday School time remains 11:20 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The young adults are throwing a Mario Kart party/tournament on November 18th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the youth room. All young adults are invited.



Mission

The fall festival was a huge success!! Thank you to all who helped and donated items. More information will be forthcoming in the Weekly Update.



Thank You, LORD!



The Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of the Grand Canyon Presbytery on October 7th was a wonderful event enjoyed by all who attended in person or online. About 100 guests enjoyed two general sessions and two workshops. Visitors warm our hearts when they praise our beautiful sanctuary and accommodating campus. Special thanks to Greg Gerlach, Bob Schulz, Brent Gregory and especially Chris McKee; this event could not have happened without their dedicated efforts and contributions. Pastor David led a beautiful worship in the afternoon. Of course, PW women and their friends ensured our guests had lunch and made everyone feel welcome.

One more note, as the host church, we designated our half of the offering to I-HELP through Lutheran Social Services. The amount has not yet been announced.



PW Pre-THANKSGIVING BAKE SALE: November 19th! Everyone is invited to attend and shop! Everyone is invited to contribute home-baked, ready-to-sell items to help support PW missions. Please come immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall! Grace group quilts will also be available via a silent auction during the bake sale.

A new PW mission project will be launched on November 2nd and will meet the first Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sew Powerful is a Christian ministry that works to combat extreme poverty by creating jobs that provide training and tools to facilitate the creation of purposeful products. These include purses, school uniforms, reusable hygiene pads, soap, and farm fresh food. All are designed to promote and enable the academic success of children throughout Zambia, while providing the dignity of work for adults.

Many talents are welcomed: writing, cutting, sewing, assembling, and more. All are invited to learn and participate in this ministry! Contact Sara McWhorter for more information, or just show up on November 2nd!

And one more thing: Save the Date, December 9th, for our holiday luncheon! Our program will be a couple of ladies who are restricted in physical activities and now channel their energies in other ways to serve Christ and serve those who need their services! They call themselves “Busted Broads” and basically recycle donated jewelry, crafts, and other hand-me-downs into new gifts. Participants can select those gifts and present them to someone special and participate in the joy of giving! We will post a box in Fellowship Hall for donations, so clean out your craft drawers and old jewelry boxes. A list will be posted with the box; watch for more information during November. Mark your calendars now for our December 9th luncheon!



The November Bible study lesson is about Jesus’ sacred encounter with the bleeding woman. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend a Circle in the parlor: Eve – November 13th at 4:00 p.m.; Deborah – November 14th at 9:30 a.m.; or Rachel – November 14th at 1:00 p.m.

To Anyone Willing—Your Help is Needed



Young girls in Zambia usually miss one week of school every month without the help of the Sew Powerful Purse Project. This massive project coordinates

- Notes of Encouragement
- Employment of Zambian mothers in making reusable hygiene products and packing purses with a variety of personal and educational needs
- Creation, collection and Shipping of purses

More information is available at sewpowerfulpurseproject.org and numerous photos can be found on Facebook at “Sew Powerful Purse Project”

Our FPC project will run four months (first Thursdays), beginning November 2nd. We will meet in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be available or you may bring your own brown bag. The help we need is people who can:

- Hold an iron (if you own one please bring it)
- Cut along a line with scissors
- Sew with a sewing machine (if you have one, please bring it)
- Write notes of encouragement to these teens.
- Donate money (for above mentioned employment)

Please consider offering a bit of your time, even an hour will be appreciated. We do not need any fabric at this time. We need you.

Most Sincerely,
FPC Sewing Group

IT'S ALMOST ANGEL TREE TIME AGAIN! The Angel Tree will be up on Sunday, December 3rd, and decorated with angel gift ideas for the families we have chosen. Please wrap and return your gifts under the tree by Sunday, December 17th. That's only a two-week time period this year! We will be delivering them on that date.



November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Rosa Befidi-Mengue	3rd
Scot Logan	3rd
Chris McKee	5th
Jack Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Lubna Dent	22nd
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
 Glenn Bennett: scubasinger7@gmail.com
 Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
 Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
 Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org
 Shiloh Murillo: preschool@fpcmesa.org



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Kaufmann, Frances
 35 W. Brown Road,
 #A245
 Mesa, AZ 85201
 602-751-8516

Webster, Carol
 480-809-5401
 (Phone Change Only)

Uithoven, Marilyn
 3300 East Broadway,
 Unit 270
 Mesa, AZ 85204

Calendar Notes

November

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

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

November 1 & 15

Women's Bible Study

November 1

Community Dinner

November 2

Sew Powerful Purse Project

November 5

Deacons meet

November 13 & 14

Circles meet

November 18

Young Adult Mario Kart Tournament

November 19

PW Bake Sale

November 21

Preschool Thanksgiving Feast

November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26

Potluck Sunday

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

**First Presbyterian Church
161 North Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201**

Phone: 480-964-8606

E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

Website: www.fpcmesa.org

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

**David Hodgson, Interim Pastor
Mark Ramsey & Glenn Bennett,
Co-Directors of Music Ministries
Chris McKee, Director of Operations
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper**