

La Palabra

March 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

COME, IN JOY, WORSHIP IN THE PARK!

Worship out of doors, in the fresh air, surrounded by God's beauty, including our community neighbors, Sunday, March 6th, at 10:00 a.m. in Pioneer Park at E. Second Street and Lesueur.

[Jesus said], "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." John 15:9-11

As we meet people from all walks of life and all nationalities, there is a key ingredient we all look for — joy. Jesus shares this thought in these Scriptures. The condition of true joy is contained in our relationship with Jesus Christ. He encourages us to continue in His love and to abide in that love. As we go through life, we struggle with the things of this world. There are days when we feel good about our relationships and the things we have accomplished, and there are days when we don't feel so good.

The condition of the joy of Christ is one where we continue to abide in Jesus. This relationship is not based on good or bad days; it is based on a commitment to follow Jesus on the good days as well as the bad days. We know we can have peace in the midst of a storm. Our joy is not based on the circumstances around us but on the condition of our heart within us. Allowing Christ to take residence in our heart and the abiding faith to always look to Him brings this joy. Joy is not an outside job. Joy is an inside job. As we walk through the struggles of life and the remainder of this Lenten journey, let us always allow Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to reign in our lives that our joy may, indeed, be complete.

Speaking of joy, please plan to worship with us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection Easter Sunday, March 27th, at one of our three worship services: SonRise Service at 6:00 a.m., followed by a Boy Scout Pancake Feed, Traditional worship service at 9:00 a.m. and HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse Easter celebration at 11:30 a.m.

Blessings....Lois

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Nate Robinson
Prayer Chain (D) — Bev Goff

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Karyn Weaver
Worship (D) — Carol Webster

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

Announcements

Combined Worship on Sunday, March 6th will be held at 10:00 a.m. in our neighboring Pioneer Park. Join us for this festive celebration of worship, featuring Pastor Lois and our HolyGrounds Praise Band.

Worship in the Park, March 6 (Sunday), 10:00 a.m.
Northwest Ramada of Pioneer Park (526 E. Main St., Mesa)
Things to Bring: hats & sunscreen
Following worship, we'll enjoy a BBQ provided by our Fellowship Commission!

The Théodore Dubois “Seven Last Words of Christ” will be offered during the first service on Palm Sunday (March 20th at 9:00 a.m.). The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by organ, piano, and soloists as they present this traditional sacred oratorio. The work is one of the best-loved and most often presented settings of the Seven Last Words, with dramatic music which beautifully reflects the power and beauty of Jesus’ life and final words from the cross.

Join us on Maundy Thursday, March 24th, for a Seder Supper Service at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate with family and fun, scripture and singing. The Passover Seder might be called the Jewish Thanksgiving. It is a special meal of remembrance of the mighty act of God to deliver the nation of Israel from slavery and release them for eventual return to the Promised Land.

Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. We will have six notable levels of donation:

Fermata (\$1,000 & Up)
Whole Note (\$500 - \$999)
Half Note (\$200 - \$499)
Quarter Note (\$100 - \$199)
Eighth Note (\$50 - \$99)
Sixteenth Note (\$25 - \$49)

Artist Series concert fees range from \$300 - \$2,000. If you would like to contribute financially, checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church," with memo notation "Artist Series" and sent to: Mark Ramsey, First Presbyterian Church, 161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa, AZ, 85201-6794. Contributors will be listed in future concert programs or, if requested, will remain anonymous. For more information on our Artist Series, please contact the Music Office, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103.

**Tickets for the First Players' Dinner-Theater Production of
MARY POPPINS (April 1,2,8,9)
are available on our church website (www.fpcmesa.org),
on weekdays in the Church Office (480-964-8606),
and during Fellowship Time on Sundays.
For Program Ad Info, please contact Mark Ramsey (480-964-8606).**

Coming Events

- Women’s Sunday, March 13
- First Players: Mary Poppins Dinner-Theater, April 1,2,8,9
- Youth Sunday, April 24

Humoresque

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

A man in Topeka, Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and started working east from there. Going to a very large church he began taking photographs and making notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign that read, "\$10,000 per minute." Seeking out the pastor, he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that the golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to Heaven, and if he pays the price, he can talk directly to God. The man thanked the pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver, Chicago, Milwaukee, and around the United States, he found more such phones with the same sign and the same explanation from each pastor. Finally, the man arrived in the great state of Texas. Upon entering a church, behold, he saw the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign read: "Calls: 25 cents"! Fascinated, the man asked to speak with the pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone, and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven, and that I could use it to talk to God.... But in 20 other churches, the cost was \$10,000 per minute. Your sign says 25 cents per call.Why is that? The pastor, smiling kindly, replied: "Son, you're in Texas now and it's a local call." - from Dick Baird

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dan Davenport
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
Parish Deacon 1 — Mark Waters
Parish Deacon 2 — Suzanne Engman
Parish Deacon 3 — Dale Gibson

Parish Deacon 4 — Erin Skarphol
Parish Deacon 5 — Heidi Blincoe
Presbyterian Women — Susan McMichael

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! Some dates and times are to be determined, so stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!

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|--------------------|------------|---|
| ❖ March 6 | 10:00 a.m. | Annual Worship in the Park will be at Pioneer Park, BBQ immediately following worship |
| ❖ March 26 | 9:00 a.m. | Easter EGGStravaganza (for children up to 10 years), continental breakfast follows |
| ❖ April 1, 2, 8, 9 | 5:30 p.m. | First Player's Production of Mary Poppins Dinner Theater |
| ❖ May 1 | TBD | Singing TV Guy Mike Chamberlain will perform in Sanctuary |



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

WOMEN'S SUNDAY, March 13th A Power-Packed Day Devoted to Mission

We will follow our regular schedule: Traditional Worship at 9:00 a.m., Holy-Grounds CoffeeHouse at 11:30 a.m. PWFPC will welcome Rachel Yates to the pulpit. Rachel is the Associate Director for Program for Presbyterian World Mission. She comes to us from Louisville, Kentucky. She will be speaking on "The Sweet Smell of Money."

A workshop entitled **Mission Matters**, will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rachel will offer practices for discerning God's call that transforms why and how we do mission. Members and guests of the congregation are invited to participate in this provocative session.

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Martha Bienert

Children's Ministries (E) — Anita Ramsey
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Jennifer Martin
Youth Elder — Dylan Hickey

Join us this month at **Wednesday WRAP** for fellowship, music, dinner, games, Bible Study and more. We meet from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and welcome both young and old to participate! The themes for March are:

March 2 – Dr. Seuss
March 9 – St. Patrick's Day
March 16 – OFF for Spring Break
March 23 – Pajama Party
March 30 – Birthday



GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare meets on Wednesday evenings in the FPC library at 6:30. Please contact Ruth Rummler (480-415-4925) or Jeanne Partida (480-292-8940) for more information.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Heard that passage before? But take a close look at John 3:16. A fresh look. A deep look. God loved the world. God didn't just love you, your neighborhood, your community, your city, or your country. God love the entire world. God sent his Son as a gift of love for people – people who speak English, Mandarin, Spanish, Quechuan, Thai, Norwegian, Hindi and Farsi. God didn't want to be separated from people – people who wear jeans, saris, kimonos, ponchos, and kilts. God wants a relationship with people - people who eat sushi, coconuts, tacos, lefse, curry, and croissants.



This summer at Cross Culture VBS (Expedition Norway), you'll get to share the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of one unique culture with the kids in our community, while helping them discover God's eternal love for the world. As a result, we will create confident, faith-filled kids who understand the power of Jesus' love in a diverse world. Please plan now to join us this summer!

Do you have a connection to Norway? Know anyone that does? We would love to have you consult with us for our Expedition Norway VBS program this year! Please contact Jasmine Couillard if you are interested.



It is time to start thinking about summer camp – Montlure will soon be accepting registrations! Camp will be located at Camp Colton (outside of Flagstaff) this year. Camp is open to children entering 4th grade through 12th grade. Each child of FPC is eligible for a \$140 scholarship to help with the cost of camp.

Spring has Sprung at the Preschool and that means everything is new! New themes and new adventures! We are celebrating new life, too, by studying plants, insects and bugs. Our latest discoveries have included having the Mesa Fire Department bring their fire truck, making volcanos, enjoying fun games at our school day carnival and spending time outside blowing bubbles in this great weather!

We need your help getting the word out about our little patch of heaven, our Preschool. Did you know that our preschool has an 80% referral rate? That means that people know how great our program is because of voices like yours in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations for the Fall 2016 school year from the community and have plenty of space for everyone in both of our classrooms. Please send family, friends and people you see playing in the park our way. Thank you!

Lastly, if you would like to donate snacks to our program, please let me know. We would greatly appreciate the help this year. The kids love fishy crackers, cheese sticks, fresh fruit (citrus, apples, bananas etc.), veggies with peanut butter, pretzels, corn chips and the list goes on. We have really appreciated the donations from the Presbyterian Women and thank God for all of your love and support.

We hope you have a wonderful spring season and may God bless your family.

Shiloh Murillo, Director



*Holy Week
&
Easter
Schedule*

March 20 — Palm Sunday	Seven Last Words of Christ at 9:00 a.m. service
March 24 — Maundy Thursday	Seder Supper Service, 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
March 25 — Good Friday	Office closed
March 26 — EGGS-Travaganza	9:00 a.m., brunch to follow in Fellowship Hall
March 27 — Easter Sunday	6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service 11:30a.m. HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse Easter Celebration

March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Cleta Larson-Enck	1st
Joyce Baum	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Helen Lents	11th
Jasmine Couillard	15th
Pam Godfrey	16th
Marvin Luntz	16th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Lillian Leichtman	22nd
Dan Gibbs	23rd
Caroline Cline	25th
Cindy Davenport	25th
Alice Peterson	25th
Earl Visser	25th
Thirza Wesselius	27th
Joshua Anderson	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Becca Brause	30th
Frances Kaufmann	31st
Bill Lents	31st

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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Skeets & Jo Throckmorton
2625 E. Southern Ave., C-125
Tempe, AZ 85282
Home: 480-831-3730
Jo's Cell: 480-489-2236



Dear FPC Family,

My sincerest thank you's to my friends at FPC for your loving thoughts, good wishes, get well cards and prayers during the hospital and rehab stays. They all strengthened me. So many to thank, and thank God for His amazing power to heal!

Ruth Yurich

Calendar Notes

March 5

New Member Class

March 6

Worship @ Pioneer Park
BBQ immediately following

March 8 & 14

Circles meet

March 12

Habitat Build

March 13

Women's Sunday
Mission Workshop

March 20

Palm Sunday

March 24

Maundy Thursday Seder Supper Service

March 25

Good Friday — Office closed

March 26

Easter EGGs-Travaganza & Brunch

March 27

Easter Sunday Services:
6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Monthly Food Drive

MISSION

Pastor — Lois Hildenbrand
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) — Scot Logan
Evangelism (E) — Bill Anderson

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Darlene Sitzler
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

Much is happening in the area of mission!

Mission Matters Workshop – By now you have all received an invitation through the bulletin to attend a stimulating workshop on mission. If you have a heart for mission, and most of you do, you will find this to be enriching opportunity! Rachel Yates, Associate Director for Presbyterian World Mission, will share how congregations are engaging in international mission in ways that excite members, young and old, and that connect with their mission interests on a local level. She will offer practices for discerning God's call to mission at the congregational level that transform why and how we do mission. Rachel will talk about moving from toxic charity to the places where the Spirit is leading. The workshop is scheduled for Sunday, March 13th, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. You don't want to miss this! So, mark your calendars and plan to join us!

One Great Hour of Sharing – Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. OGHS, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People.

Habitat for Humanity – Once again FPC Mesa will be participating in building a home with Habitat for Humanity. Mark your calendars for March 12th and April 2nd. On March 12th, we will be providing lunch to all the workers. On both dates, we need 8 – 10 volunteers to help with shingling and dry walling. Watch for announcements in the bulletin about signing up to help. You can call Jeanne Partida at 480-981-6149 for further information.



Summer Mission Trip – Save the dates for July 7th - 14th. We have begun initial plans for a Summer Mission trip and are tentatively looking at these dates. Stay tuned for upcoming information as it unfolds. This is a trip for anyone interested young and older.

I Help and Food Pantry - As always, I Help and the Food Pantry appreciate contributions. I Help needs bottled water, **large** bottles of shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Food Panty continues to need spaghetti packages as well as canned meats like ravioli and chili. However, there is no need for tuna at this time. Reminder: The pantry cannot accept citrus of any kind. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

See calendar on website:

<http://www.fpcmesa.org/about-us/current-events>