

La Palabra

March 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

It's Lent: Walk the Talk

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8

In this scripture Paul points us to Jesus and His commitment to God's calling. Jesus is our ultimate example and Savior – He made the ultimate sacrifice. Here are four steps of commitment Jesus took as revealed in these Scriptures.

- ❖ Step 1: Jesus gave up His form as God to take on human form.
- ❖ Step 2: Jesus emptied Himself of His rights and became a slave.
- ❖ Step 3: Jesus humbled Himself.
- ❖ Step 4: Jesus became obedient to the point of death.

Commitment is like prayer; it is often talked about, but seldom practiced. You've heard the phrase: "Walk the Talk." If what we claim to believe and the way we live do not line up with each other, we have to question our level of commitment. Walking the talk requires commitment. The scripture above outlines steps of commitment. At what step do you see yourself? Why are you at this step?

Do you sometimes think you're God? That you are in control? This Lenten season work on ceding control to God. When things are beyond your control rather than struggle with it, perhaps pray, "Help me remember you are God and I am not!"

As slaves of The King, we don't have rights. We belong to God. This Lent let us not chafe against God's will but rather learn to recognize it and abide with it.

Remember Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." The meek don't regard themselves as superior to others, and they are humbly dependent on God. For Lent let us give up feeling superior to others. Let us be humbly dependent on God.

We've talked before about 'Dying to Self.' This Lent may we talk with God, ask the Holy Spirit to empower us that we might 'Walk the Talk:' come to the place of a true servant, humble to the place of total commitment and empty ourselves that God may fulfill His calling in us. I realize these steps lead to total surrender, but what a blessed place to be. Start where you are and go to a deeper commitment! Walk the Talk!

Blessings...Lois

INDEX

<i>A Message from Lois</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Discipleship</i>	3
<i>Ministry</i>	4
<i>Mission</i>	5
<i>Fellowship</i>	6
<i>March Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>Thank You's</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	Website

WORSHIP

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

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

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

The First Players invite you to their 21st annual production, *Peter Pan*, this March/April. Broadway's timeless classic musical whisks you away to a place where dreams are born and no one ever grows up! Our *Peter Pan* production cast will feature Isobel Letizia as “Peter Pan,” Tanya Snitzer as “Wendy,” Brooks Newbry as “Captain Hook,” and John Couillard as “Smee.” They will be joined by a star-studded cast of First Players! Tickets are available online at fpcmesa.org, in the Church Office beginning March 1st, and between services on Sundays.



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.

Coming Events

- 3/24,25,31;4/1 First Players “Peter Pan” Dinner-Theaters, 5:30 p.m.
- 4/14 Good Friday, A Service of Darkness, Sanctuary Choir, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/7 Soprano Stephanie Ann Ball and Baritone Tom Sitzler, “Animal Art Songs”, 4:00 p.m.

Humoresque

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



If there were cellphones at the Red Sea

(shared by Dick Baird)

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Bill Rummler
Youth Elder — Gregg Gerlach

Many of us have a different favorite part of Wednesday WRAP - whether it be the fellowship, music, games, dinner or Bible study. If you haven't been before, then it is time to figure out your favorite part. Our themes for the month are:

- March 1 – Ash Wednesday (Pizza & Salad)
- March 8 – Dr. Seuss (Mexican Pile Ups)
- March 22 – Farm (Multicultural meal)
- March 29 – Pajama Party (Guess What?!)

(From Amanda, one of our youth group members when asked about Wednesday WRAP) “I come to WRAP to get together with others. I really enjoy when it is taco night. We have fun, and I want to invite all of you to join us.”

Plan now to invite your family, friends and neighbors to the FPC Easter Eggstravaganza. We will be celebrating the risen Christ at three different worship services as well as having an Easter Egg hunt at 10:25 on Easter Sunday (April 16th) for children - toddlers through sixth grade! We will then have Sunday School classes immediately following for all students ages 3 – adult!



Many parents are already planning their summer and what to do to keep the kids occupied. Montlure Presbyterian Summer Camp is a great experience. FPC offers a campership of \$175 for each church kid that attends camp this summer. All you have to do is complete a campership form (available in the church office) and submit it no later than two weeks prior to the start 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 you in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations for the Fall 2017 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, pretzels, corn chips and the list goes on. We have really appreciated the donations from 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

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
 Property (E) — Allan Schultz
 Personnel (E) — Kate Buck

Personnel (D) — Susan McMichael
 Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Miki Newbry
 Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

Are you able to help? Per Capita Apportionment is how Presbyterians mutually share the cost of participating in the life and mission of the wider church. For 2017 the **Per Capita amount is \$34.00 per member**. FPC Mesa has paid this amount on your behalf. Any amount that you can contribute to cover all or a portion of your Per Capita share will lessen the strain on the church budget and be greatly appreciated. Please designate 'Per Capita' on your check or contribution envelope.

Would it make your life easier to have online giving available? Please contact Jan Montgomery at 602-618-6048 or email jan@canyonshadowsrealty.com with your comments and/or questions.

PNC News

We have reviewed approximately 125 Pastor Information Forms and, as we mentioned last month, we interviewed seven via skype and have now narrowed it down to a few that we feel will be a good fit for FPC. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to discern the best candidate.

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

FPC Mission Project to collect clothes and school items for homeless children in the Philippines, also known as Children's Concern International, was a success! The items will be boxed and mailed by the middle of March. Thank you all for your generosity!

Meet and Greet Luncheon for Leslie Vogel and our whole congregation will be from 11:30 – 2:00 p.m. on March 4th. Leslie is coming from Guatemala to be our guest pastor for Women's Gifts Sunday on March 5th. On Saturday, March 4th, we will all have the opportunity to get to know Leslie, find out about what she does, where our monies go when we send them and find out what our Spring of 2019 Mission Trip will look like. She is our Mission Co-worker. She is ours and we are hers, so please plan on joining us for this potluck salad and desert luncheon! Mission Commission, Fellowship Commission, and Presbyterian Women are hosting this together.

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. Offerings will be accepted throughout Lent.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Summer 2017 Mission Trip – Save the dates for June 25th-June 30th. We will return to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto to continue to build our relationship with the folks there and to co-facilitate Vacation Bible School. This is a trip for anyone interested — young and older. Watch for information coming out soon.

I Help is still in need of twin size sheets. They also need volunteers for hosting and for laundry during the summer months. Please contact Janet Verch at 480-218-1357 or Renita Jurgeson at 480-898-8733 if interested in this opportunity to serve. Thank you to Suzanne Engman and Ruth Danaher for volunteering to cook dinner on the second Sunday of the month!



Food Pantry - As always, your contributions are appreciated. Food Panty continues to need canned meats like ravioli and chili. There is also a need for peanut butter. However, there is no need for tuna or cereal at this time. United Food Bank has provided enough cereal for the next 5-6 months! Praise God! Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Cindy Davenport
Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
Fellowship Deacon — Dan Sitzler
Fellowship Deacon — Dale Gibson

Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Rummler
Fellowship Deacon — Heidi Blincoe
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman

UPCOMING 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!

- ❖ March 4th - Meet and greet luncheon for Leslie Vogel from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ March 24th, 25th, 31st and April 1st. - Dinner theater in Fellowship Hall
- ❖ April 9th - Worship in the Park at 10:00 a.m. with a BBQ afterwards. This will happen at Pioneer Park.



Women's Gift Sunday is March 5th. We are so blessed to have Leslie Vogel, our mission co-worker in Guatemala here as our guest pastor. A big thank you to Jo Throckmorton and Eve Circle, as well as, Sara McWhorter and Deborah Circle for putting the services together for that day! PW, along with Mission Commission and Fellowship Commission, are hosting a Meet and Greet Luncheon for Leslie and the whole congregation on March 4th.

FPC Mission Project—Presbyterian Women and FPC joined with the Mission Commission on a mission drive to collect needed items to send to children in the Philippines through the organization, Children's Concerns International. This is the organization that Ruth Robinson established. The drive was successful! Thank you for your contributions!

Circles meet:

- Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m., parlor
- Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., members' homes
- Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, parlor
- Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library

The Next PW Coordinating Team meeting will be Tuesday, March 7th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library.

March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Adam Cronenberg	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
Anthony Vitale	17th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Lillian Leichtman	22nd
Dan Gibbs	23rd
Caroline Cline	25th
Cindy Davenport	25th
Alice Peterson	25th
Wayne Scriba	26th
Thirza Wesselius	27th
Joshua Anderson	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.

Calendar Notes

March 1

Ash Wednesday
Service at 7:00 p.m. in Chapel

March 4

Meet & Great/Luncheon
With Leslie Vogel

March 5

Women's Sunday
Commissions & Session met
(Combined February/March meetings)

March 13 & 14

Circles meet

March 24 & 25

Peter Pan Dinner Theater

March 26

Monthly Food Drive

March 31 & April 1

Peter Pan Dinner Theater



Thank you all our precious church family. Your love, support, prayers, condolences and hugs have meant so much in this very difficult time. We appreciate you all.
Sue and Peter Eisenklam

I want to thank each and every one of you who had any part in the January 27th and 28th Presbyterian meetings held at our church. It went very smoothly, and I was grateful for your willingness to participate in serving the pastors, commissioners, and visitors who attended. Our pastor Lois received many compliments due to your dedication.

Barb Walker

See calendar on website:

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

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

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Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

Jasmine Couillard, Christian Education Director

Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications

Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor

Kathe Patchin, Bookkeeper

Anita Ramsey, Youth Director

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus