

La Palabra

June 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters...I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:15,16,19

This declaration of newness comes towards the end of one of my favorite chapters of Scripture, Isaiah 43. The chapter opens with the oft repeated words: Do not fear! How many times have we all needed to repeat those words throughout these past many months as we have been faithful in discernment and searching for the path God had already prepared for us?!

I take delight and comfort in the prophet’s words, reminding us all that God has redeemed us, God has called us by name, and that we belong to God. God will be with us through the deep waters of life and even the rivers will not overwhelm us. I hold on to these words when life and ministry might become overwhelming. I held on to these words as God led me through the search process and guided me straight to you!

It is with a joy-filled heart that I make my way out to Mesa, Arizona, to become a part of your community of faith. I am eager to get to know you and your passions for ministry and mission. It is exciting to think about engaging in ministry with you and to dream about and envision what God has in store for us as we journey into God’s good future together!

Gratitude abounds for the hospitality you extended to Peter and me when we were with you in March. We very much enjoyed the dinner theatre production of Peter Pan (what talent you have!) as well as the meet and greet reception and, of course, the beautiful Spirit-filled worship of our good and gracious God. I look forward with great joy to many, many more times of inspired and inspiring worship! Thank you to all who made it so very special!

We give thanks for the Pastor Nominating Committee who welcomed us with open arms and planned meaningful outings and activities where we could learn about one another and discover the plan God had for our shared ministry going forward. The potential of this partnership is exciting and life-giving to me ~ water in the desert as the prophet Isaiah puts it.

And as Isaiah also proclaims: God is doing a new thing! God is on the move and at work within and among you and me. God is already prodding and nudging us toward what is next for FPC Mesa. It is up to us to listen well. To be still, and with an open heart and spirit, listen for the voice of God calling and leading us forward in faith. God is doing a new thing, and I am excited to be a part of that new thing with all of you! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

In Christ’s love and hope,
Rev. Ann Conklin

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WORSHIP

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

Funerals/Memorials (D) —
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 Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will meet at Organ Stop Pizza (1149 E. Southern Ave., Mesa) for the final gathering of its chapter year. We'll gather at OSP on Saturday, June 3rd at 12:00 p.m. The cost for pizza (buffet) and drinks will be \$10.25 per person (cash and checks only, payable at OSP). Contact Mark Ramsey if you'd like to attend. More about Organ Stop Pizza is available at organstoppizza.com.

Star Ministry - For many years, our congregation has displayed stars during worship services as a reminder to keep in prayer those of our congregation who are active military personnel serving overseas. If you know of a member of our congregation who is serving overseas, please notify the church office. It will be a blessing and honor to lift them in prayer.



This month, I will attend the American Guild of Organists' West Region Convention, which will be held this year in Salt Lake City. In addition to organ and choral workshops, we'll hear ASU organist Kimberly Marshall performing the opening concert of the convention at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in their renowned home venue, and the famed G. Donald Harrison Æolian-Skinner organ in the Tabernacle, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2017. It should be a terrific convention and first trip to Salt Lake City!

Be sure to invite your young friends, ages 5-13, to this year's VBS, *Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School!* VBS will be held Monday through Friday, June 5th-9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day, with special music offered again during both Sunday morning worship services on June 11th. Our VBS music leader will be Miki Newbry. Join your friends at *Maker Fun Factory* where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. The cost will be only \$15, with a \$45 maximum per household, and it will include games, snacks, fun characters, crafts, music, friends, Bible stories, and more! Get your registration form now from the Church Office or from the front page of our church website. On June 11th, the children and leaders should wear *Maker Fun Factory* gear and be in the Sanctuary at 8:45 a.m. or the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

Our Sanctuary Choir members rehearse weekly and sing most Sundays of the fall and spring. For their outstanding commitment, I would like to recognize and offer special thanks to each member of the choir: Dick Baird, Cortney Bever, Marjorie Burgan, Mary Carlson, Paul Carlson, Carol Gerlach, Ellen Gillespie, Paul Green, Kay Herrera, Kristen Watson Hull, Don Kaelin, Helen Lents, Gordon Letizia, Flinn Lund, Susan McMichael, Brooks Newbry, Jane Potyka, Charlene Raikes, Anita Ramsey, Ainslie Read, Nate Robinson, Ruth Robinson, Karen Rudin, Alice Schlak, Allan Schultz, Stan Snitzer, Carol Strouse, Bea Towe, Barb Walker, and Joan White.

Save the date of Sunday, August 27th, for our Fellowship Commission's annual Ice Cream Social. We'll begin at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, and our Artist Series will present Dan Sitzler's band, Fatigo, who will entertain us for the afternoon. Fatigo's musical style includes bits of Latin, folk, jazz, mariachi, and bossa nova music, and from subterranean venues in the Downtown Phoenix Arts district to larger venues throughout the Valley of the Sun and beyond, Fatigo brings a multicultural concoction to the table. Check the group's [Facebook](#) page, and join us for an afternoon of great entertainment!

Special Summer Events

- Salsa Challenge, June 11th, 4:00 p.m.
- Ice Cream Social, August 27 (Sunday), 4:00 p.m., featuring Dan Sitzler's band, Fatigo!

Humoresque

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

While sunning himself in the Bahamas, a wealthy English businessman received a telegram from his butler, which read simply: "Cat dead." Distraught at the loss of his beloved pet, the businessman cut short his holiday and returned home. After giving the cat a decent burial in the garden, he remonstrated with his butler for the cold-hearted nature of the telegram. "You should break bad news gently," he said. "If I had been telling you that your cat had died, I would have sent a telegram saying: "The cat's on the roof and can't get down." Then a few hours later I would have sent another telegram, saying: "The cat's fallen off the roof and is badly hurt." Finally, a couple of hours after that, I would have sent a third telegram, saying: "The cat had sadly passed away." That way, you would have been gradually prepared for the bad news and would have been able to deal with it better." "I understand, sir," said the butler. "I will bear that in mind in future." With that, the businessman booked another ticket to the Bahamas and resumed his holiday. Two days later, he received another telegram from his butler. It read: "Your mother's on the roof and can't get down." [from Anita Ramsey]

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Bill Rummler

Send your kids on an imaginative, impacting adventure! At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too. Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. So mark these dates on your calendar: June 5 – 9, 2017. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and will end at noon.

FEELING UNWANTED? FEELING UNLOVED? EMBRACED BY LONELINESS? THIS IS WHEN GOD DOES HIS GREATEST WORK! Please join us during Adult Vacation Bible School, June 5 – 9, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for a biblically-based study of the movie Footprints. (Movie will be shown during the study.)

Montlure day camp is a week of Bible filled fun and games. Each day includes a Scripture-themed craft, games, songs, lunch and story time. It is a great opportunity to make friends with other kids from the East Valley Presbyterian churches and prepare for Montlure camp as well.

When: Monday, June 26th – Friday, June 30th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: University Presbyterian Church, 139 E. Alameda Dr., Tempe 85282

Cost: \$50 per child, includes lunch, snacks and t-shirt

Who: Kids K – 6th grade

Registration deadline is June 5th. The registration forms and payments can be sent to Amanda Horan at University Presbyterian (you can call Jen Fraser if you have questions, 480-250-5685).

It is time to finish up paperwork for Montlure summer camp. Complete a campership request form (available in the church office) and submit it at least two weeks prior to the start of camp for \$175 off the cost of camp fees!

Would you like to sponsor a child (\$15) or a family 3 or more (\$45) to attend Vacation Bible School from June 5th – June 9th? Please see Jasmine Couillard or write a check clearly marked VBS sponsorship and put it in the offering plate to help in this way.

It's hard to believe another school year has come and gone! We are already hard at work to prepare for the next school year. Fall registration is open. My summer hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in June and July. Tours will be conducted at that time. If you know of anyone who might be looking for a preschool, please have them call 480-835-7877 and leave a message for me. I'll get back as soon as possible.

We are looking for a new teacher for our 3-year olds for the next school year. Interviews will be conducted in June and July for an August start.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director



MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) — Carol Holdhusen
Marketing (E) —

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

Mission Trip Participants will be commissioned to go to Tseyi Bidaa on June 18th during the first service. Everyone in the congregation is invited to pray for the participants while we are gone from June 25th – June 30th. It takes senders and goers to be the reflection of Christ in the world. **Participants**, your final payment is due on June 18th. Then, all church members should mark their calendars for July 2nd when participants will be sharing their testimonies of experiences from the trip at both services.

Pentecost Special Offering - Each year on Pentecost Sunday, which is June 4th this year, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. With the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual, but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible possible. The Pentecost Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is about helping young people begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Gifts to Pentecost Offering unite young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world. Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders. (reprinted from PCUSA) Forty Percent of the Pentecost Offering remains with our own congregation to support ministries with children. Once again, the Session of FPC Mesa has designated those funds will go to the Mission Trip. Ten Percent of the Offering supports "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative. Twenty-five percent goes to support ministries with youth ages 12-18. And twenty-five percent goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) opportunities.



I Help is in need of volunteers for hosting on Sunday nights and for laundry pick-up on Wednesdays or Thursdays during the summer months. Please contact Janet Verch at 480-218-1357 or Renita Jurgensen at 480- 898-8733 if interested in this opportunity to serve.

Dave's Crew works on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to do handyman work around the church. If you would like to be a part of the group, please contact Allan Schultz at (480) 396-2985.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
 Cards (D) — Cindy Davenport
 Older Adult (E) — Dave Jurgensen

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
 Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
 Fellowship Deacon — Dan Sitzler
 Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Danaher

Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Rummler
 Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Harding
 Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman
 Youth Elder — Sedona Verch

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!



- June 11th — Salsa Challenge, 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- August 27th — Ice Cream Social, 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (featuring Dan Sitzler's band, Fatigo!)

June Birthdays



<i>Renita Jurgensen</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Ellen Hickey</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Victoria Martin</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Ken Brause</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Jan Smith</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Don Anweiler</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Gretchen Frederick</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Matt Hayball</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Zoe Garlin</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Shirley Martz</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Rosie Mills</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Ellen Gillespie</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Jack Oliver</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Todd Ramsey</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Jennifer Grace Martin</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Joan White</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Bert Lanstra</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Pamela Franke</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Cheryl Gregory</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Gail Soderquist</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Jack Gunter</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Richard Koch</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Sara D'Spain</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Ann Harbin</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Carol Anderson</i>	<i>29th</i>

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

June 4
 Pentecost
 (Wear flame colors to worship!)

June 5-9
 Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School

June 11
 Salsa Challenge

June 15
 Welcome Rev. Ann Conklin!

June 18
 Happy Father's Day!
 Commissions & Session **will not** meet
 (Next meeting — July 16)

June 25
 Monthly Food Drive

June 25-30
 Mission Trip



IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Yurich — February 25, 2017
 Alyene Trimble — March 30, 2017
 Ellie Koch — April 7, 2017
 Alma Oberly — April 25, 2017



See calendar on website:

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

Ann Conklin, Pastor (beginning June 15, 2017)

Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

Jasmine Couillard, Christian Education Director

Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications

Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor

Teresa Kisel, Bookkeeper

Anita Ramsey, Youth Director

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus