

La Palabra

May 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Phillipians 1:3-11

Thank you for the wonderful sendoff April 23rd. The choir, Hearts, Hands and Voices Signing Choir, HolyGrounds Praise Band and One Voice outdid themselves. Add in two baptisms, a few tears, two beautiful yummy cakes, an umbrella full of cards and many, many hugs: it was one audacious worship. I think God was pleased! I know I was, and I thank the many of you that worked to make it special. Thank you for the gifts, cards, your kind words and thoughts.

Thank you for the blessing of being your interim pastor for the last 28 months. Yes, it took longer than most of us thought it would. Yes, it had its ups and downs. But through it all we did what we have said all along is our mission to do.

We Loved God, Followed Jesus and Served in Spirit!

And, the journey continues. Shortly, your new pastor, Rev. Ann Conklin, will join you. I am very excited for you. Much like Moses, I don't get to go into the Promised Land with you, but I pray our wandering through the interim desert has prepared you well as Ann leads you, like Joshua, into the future God has in store for you.

God Be With Ye – Goodbye

Blessings...Lois

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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

Joan White and I will sing several Broadway show tunes as a part of the Presbyterian Women's Spring Luncheon, to be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 6th, at 11:30 a.m. The program will include music from *Frozen*, *The Pajama Game*, *Tangled*, and *The Lion King II*.



Tom Sitzler & Stephanie Ball will present a family-friendly concert of Animal Art Songs on Sunday, May 7th, at 4:00 p.m. The concert will be held in our Church Sanctuary and will include songs about birds, cats, and leopards, among many other water, land, and air creatures! This concert is being offered free of charge thanks to our Artist Series Donors. Freewill donations to the church artist series will be gladly accepted.

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. The cost will be approximately \$12 per person (cash and checks only, payable at the door), and reservations are due by May 15th. Please let me know if you'd like to attend! More about Organ Stop Pizza is available here: organstoppizza.com.



Thank you to the Cast & Crew of Peter Pan for our 21st Annual First Players Production. Thank you also to the congregation for supporting the First Players and our other FPC Artist Series events through your donations and faithful attendance!

Coming Events

- Vacation Bible School, June 5-9, 9:00 a.m. - noon daily
- Ice Cream Social, August 27 (Sunday), 4:00 p.m., featuring a surprise band with a HolyGrounds link!

Sunday Youth Dates

- May 7, 6:00 p.m.
- May 28, 5:00 p.m.

Humoresque

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

Ed and his wife, Norma, went to the state fair every year, and every year, Ed would say, "Norma, I'd like to ride in that helicopter." Norma always replied, "I know Ed, but that helicopter ride is fifty bucks, and fifty bucks is fifty bucks!" One year, Ed and Norma went to the fair, and Ed said, "Norma, I'm 75 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance." To this, Norma replied, "Ed, that helicopter ride is fifty bucks, and fifty bucks is fifty bucks." The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word, I won't charge you a penny! But if you say one word, it's fifty dollars." Ed and Norma agreed, and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Ed and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!" Ed replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Norma fell out, but you know, fifty bucks is fifty bucks!" [from Anita Ramsey]

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

The excitement is building for **Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School**. Dates are June 5th-9th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Guaranteed to be the best week of summer for those attending and volunteering! New friends! Amazing experiments! Creative Games! Lip-smacking snacks! Surprising adventures! Incredible music! Registration forms are available on the church website and in the office. There will be informational sign up tables in Fellowship Hall during coffee time starting May 7th.



Vacation Bible School is not just for the kids. Adults are invited to join in a week long study of the movie *Footprints*. The movie will be shown during the week and the class will discuss the referenced Biblical verses. Don't miss out on a fun, relaxing and deeply engaging study. About *Footprints* – “When David loses his loyal German shepherd Smokey, he feels all is lost... until Cadie, a dog with a rough past of her own, comes to his aid. The two come together, with the help of God's power, to transform their lives.” Adult study will run alongside VBS from June 5th – 9th, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance to let us know you will be attending.

Montlure summer camps begin next month! Don't forget to 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!



Wow! This school year has flown by! It is hard to believe it is almost over. We have had a **fantastic 30th year** together with 32 children enrolled! We also achieved the distinction of being a Quality Plus 4-Star school with the Quality First program. Let's celebrate these milestones during the **Teacher Appreciation Week coming up, May 1st -5th**. This is a special weeklong event to show our teachers how much we care. Please consider surprising them with a little note of encouragement, special gift or a good book for their summer reading pleasure.

Our **Annual Spring Fling will be on Thursday, May 4th, at 10:30 a.m.** We hope that you will join us as the children sing a few songs for their families. There will also be a family picnic after the program. The preschool will provide the sub-sandwiches and the families are asked to bring something to share. Hope to see you there!

Our **last day of school will be on Wednesday, May 17th.** We will re-open for our **31st School Year on August 14th!** We will hold a special "Meet the Teacher" event for the new families on **Thursday, August 10th**, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming our new Pastor, Rev. Ann Conklin, this summer and plan to share our Chapel tradition with her and the new families!

Don't forget: We are now enrolling for our Fall 2017 school year and need your help. Now is the time to think about putting your preschool child or grandchild into our high-quality preschool to get ready for kindergarten. Stop by the preschool office and pick up a registration packet today! Tours will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 during June and July this summer. Stop on by!

Thank you for all of the love, prayers and support that you continually show to us. It means so much and we truly can feel the strength of your caring!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

MISSION

Pastor —
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

IMPORTANT DATE for Summer 2017 Mission Trip – There will be an informational meeting on **Sunday, May 7th**, in the Sanctuary immediately following the first service for everyone considering going on the mission trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto. The dates of the trip this year are Sunday, June 25th – Friday, June 30th. We will limit the number going to 25. Many people have expressed an interest, which is very exciting! Applications will be handed out at the meeting, valuable information will be provided and questions will be answered. The cost for the trip is \$175 but a \$25 discount will be given to everyone who attends the meeting.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Thank you for your usual generosity to this special offering. The total donated was \$3,107.

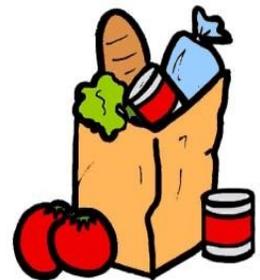


Pentecost Special Offering - Each year on Pentecost Sunday, which is June 4th this year, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life with an offering intended to nurture the faith of the newest among us. As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support 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 our 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.

Food Pantry has everything it needs right now! Praise God and thank you all!



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 Rummier
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!

- June 11th — Salsa Challenge, 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- August 27th — Ice Cream Social, 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (featuring a surprise band with a HolyGrounds link!)



IN HER SHOES

“Come Walk with me...”

PW Spring Luncheon
Saturday, May 6, 12:00
Fellowship Hall
Bring a salad to share

Joan Fenton, Justice and Peace Representative for PW Synod of the Southwest, will take us on a walk with a victim of domestic violence.

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

Happy Mother's Day!

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Raul Flores	4th
Bill Smith	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Fran Gunter	11th
Suzie Payton	12th
George Wagner	12th
Connie Gailfus	13th
Gail Pearson	13th
Jon Lokensgard	14th
Sue Eisenklam	16th
Robert Martz	16th
Jennifer Smith	17th
Lisa Calhoun	18th
Mihret Gerlach	19th
Lynne Logan	21st
Robert Harbin	22nd
Graham Walker	22nd
Vivian Buck	23rd
Denise Worden	23rd
Lynne Harding	24th
Karen Eberhardt	25th
Yvonne Oliver	25th
Patricia Wyse	28th
Jo Godfrey	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.*

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Harding, Kyle 6445 S. Maple Ave., #1086 Tempe, AZ 85284 480-458-7288	Kambak, Jackie 6945 E. Main St., #3338 Mesa, AZ 85207
Harding, Robert & Lynne No land line Robert's cell: 480-766- 2315	Mallia, Ginny & Bob No land line 602-686-4139

Calendar Notes

May 4

Preschool Spring Fling

May 6

PW Spring Luncheon

May 7

Sitzler/Ball Concert

May 8 & 9

Circles meet

May 14

Mother's Day

May 21

Commissions & Session meet

May 28

Monthly Food Drive

May 29

Memorial Day — Office Closed

Editor's Note:

THIS IS IT! This is the last printed version of La Palabra. This does NOT mean that La Palabra is going away! If you are on the all-church email list, beginning in June, I will simply send you the link to the newsletter on our website. Click on the link and you will see the familiar format of La Palabra in glorious color! (Check it out at www.fpcmesa.org.) If I don't have your email address, please send it to me at pubs@fpcmesa.org, and I will add it to the list. If you don't have access to a computer, contact me at the church office, 480-964-8606, and we'll make arrangements.

Thanks for your understanding!

Linda Reeves

See calendar on website:

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

First Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.fpcmesa.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

Kathe Patchin, Bookkeeper

Anita Ramsey, Youth Director

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus