

# La Palabra

August 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.”  
(Jesus – as recorded in John 14:27)

Scripture tells us that Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). We are encouraged to seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14) and also assured that God will guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:79). It is fitting then that as we greet one another to begin our time of worship, we greet one another with the peace of Christ!

Also known as passing the peace of Christ, this is an ancient and significant gesture that forms us in faith. Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our Christian identity as peacemakers and trains our hearts, hands, and tongues in the ways of peace.

From the beginning of the early church, Christians have greeted one another with the peace of Christ. “Peace be with you” is a greeting Jesus himself used with his apostles. Paul opened his letters with the greeting, “Grace and peace be with you.”

Rather than greeting one another with a “How are you?” or asking about later lunch plans, we will try to transition to a time of passing the peace of Christ to those worshipping near us. This may even encourage some to sit in different places in the sanctuary occasionally in order to have the opportunity to greet new people on Sunday morning! It is also a warm and welcoming way to greet those visiting with us, without feeling a need to start up a conversation.

The gesture may be simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend not only our hand but also Christ’s peace to one another, we identify with Jesus who extended his life for the peace of the world. In the midst of a divided world and culture, when we regularly pass the peace, we symbolize the unity we share in Christ and practice God’s call to maintain the bond of peace. We are encouraged to move beyond ourselves and create Christ-like community with others.

I want to acknowledge that this shift may feel awkward initially and that’s okay. It may move us outside our comfort zone. But if we think of this Christly gesture as extending hospitality to those around us and genuinely wishing Christ’s peace be upon them, I think we will acclimate quickly and find words that are comfortable for us. “The peace of Christ be with you.” “God’s peace to you.” “The peace of the Lord be with you.” Or simply “Peace” are all good options!

So it is with great hope I say to you: “The peace of Christ be with you!”

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

Last month, I attended the biennial Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists, held this year in Salt Lake City. The event featured outstanding international organists, classes on improvisation,



three beautiful Temple Square organs, and good times with friends and colleagues. Post-convention activities included a side trip to Zion National Park and a beautiful drive on I-15 in the northwest corner of Arizona. Thirty or so years ago, in an issue of the National Geographic, the Virgin River Canyon was judged as one of the most beautiful stretches of interstate in the country. I had forgotten about the article until Barb Walker encouraged me to watch for the Virgin River Canyon (on I-15 in the northwest corner of Arizona!). It provided an awesome convention postlude. I am indebted to our staff and congregation, for allowing me the time and resources to attend a very inspiring, empowering, and educational

convention, which was well-planned and well-hosted.

The most up-to-date Summer Choir Schedule is available on our [Church Website](#), and printed copies are on the Receptionist's Counter in the Church Office. Our remaining Summer Schedule includes:

August 6 — Summer Ringers  
August 13 — Trombone Quartet!  
August 20 — Sunday of Duets  
August 27 — Youth Choir  
September 3 — Hymn Festival (both services)

*“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Ephesians 5:19-20 KJV*

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. Check the group's [Facebook](#) page, and join us for an afternoon of great entertainment!

Wednesday WRAP will resume on August 30th! Watch for registration opportunities. Advanced sign-up will help our WRAP leaders to prepare for the coming year. The Sanctuary Choir will begin early next month. If you've been considering the Choir as your area of church service, we would love to have you join us! Our welcome-back rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room, and we'll have our first Sunday in worship on September 10th. (Please visit our worship website, [fpcmesa.org/worship](http://fpcmesa.org/worship), for links to each of our choirs and to our choir schedule.) In addition to offering music for most of our fall and spring worship services, the Sanctuary Choir enjoys off-campus retreats, monthly social events, and special performances. Above all, they enjoy serving our Lord through His gift of song!

## Coming Events

- September 3 — Hymn Festival (9:00 & 11:30)
- September 6, 7 — Beginning of Fall Choirs
- September 24 — FPC Potluck, 5:00 p.m.
- October 1 — World Communion Sunday

### Humoresque

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

A very cranky old woman was arrested for shoplifting at a grocery store. She gave everyone a hard time, from the store manager to the security guard to the arresting officer who took her away. She complained and criticized everything and everyone throughout the process. When she appeared before the judge, the judge asked her what she had stolen from the store. The lady defiantly replied, "Just a stupid can of peaches." The judge then asked why she had done it. She replied, "I was hungry and forgot to bring any cash to the store." The judge asked how many peaches were in the can. She replied in a nasty tone, "Nine! But why do you care about that?" The judge answered patiently, "Well, ma'am, because I'm going to give you nine days in jail -- one day for each peach." As the judge was about to drop his gavel, the lady's long-suffering husband raised his hand slowly and asked if he might speak. The judge said, "Yes sir, what do you have to add?" The husband said meekly, "Your Honor, she also stole a can of peas."

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## 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 Rummel  
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!

- August 27th — Ice Cream Social, 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (featuring Dan Sitzler's band, Fatigo!)
- September 24th — Potluck Dinner (Watch for more details!)



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts and prayers, as well as the many cards sent to me on the death of my daughter.

Virginia Leigh

Dear FPC Family,

Thank you for your many prayers and love for Becky. Becky was so appreciative of this love expressed for her and her family.

Becky was a leader in our family — as the oldest sibling, first to attempt so many things. She set a good example with her faith, determination and inner strength. Becky was strong and brave to the end. May your memories of Becky bring you happy thoughts or a special smile once in awhile.

Mildred Kimbough and Family

## 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

### Discipleship News!

As summer vacation winds down, so does our children's summer Sunday School program at FPC. There are two more weeks to join us in Jackson B at 10:30 a.m. On August 6th we are studying about new life in Jerusalem and on August 13th we are studying Jesus' farewell promise.

Fall Sunday School kick off day is August 20th. We will be presenting the new kindergarten, third and seventh grade students with an upgraded Bible of their own. Please join us in celebrating these students at both services.

Wednesday WRAP will resume at the end of the month! Please join us on August 30th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for music, dinner, games, crafts, fellowship and Bible study! Wednesday WRAP is appropriate for children in kindergarten all the way through adult! We have age appropriate classes for all ages between. The theme for our kick off night is CHOCOLATE!

For our August Mission project, we will again be collecting school supplies for the FPC Preschool! Shiloh Murillo, the Preschool Director, along with assistance from her teachers, has compiled a wish list for supplies for the coming year. If you are interested in purchasing some school supplies, please place your donations in the designated boxes. There will be one box in the Sanctuary, and another will be in the office during the week, and in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.



Preschool begins holding classes on August 24th, but your donations will be welcome any time during August. You are also welcome to come to the Open House on August 10th at 5:30 p.m. Thank you very much!

### School Classroom & Supply Wish List

- 64 oz Bottle of Bubbles
- White school glue
- Glue sticks
- 8x11 or 9x12 construction paper (multi-colored)
- 8x11 white copy paper
- Snacks - individually wrapped & healthy
- Card stock (white or colored)
- Paper plates
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- 3oz paper Dixie Cups
- Foaming Hand Soap refill liquid
- Washable markers
- Thin markers
- Colored pencils
- Colored Dry-erase markers
- Watercolor paint trays
- Colored tissue paper
- Golf Tees
- Cotton Balls
- Q-Tips



## MISSION

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

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

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

### Mission Trip Report

“Every day when the kids said good-bye, they said ‘Good-bye Ayden.’ They knew my name,” Ayden shared. Evie loved it when she heard “Sit by me, Evie. Sit by me.” They knew Evie’s name too. And we learned their names, Camille, Theresa, Trinity, Danielle, Starr, Demitra, Samantha, Kayah, Aden, Danny, Kendrell, Kaylen, Noahana, Ulani and the list goes on. We all know how it feels to be called by name. We made a point to call everyone, youth and adults, by their name. We actively engaged in the moments of playing, learning, laughing, singing, praying, celebrating, and enjoying God’s love. Older kids looked after younger children. Younger children followed and did what older children participated in. There was no fighting and arguing. When the daily video was shown with the pictures that Bryan had taken that day, all were focused on the make-shift screen, hooraying every face shown! During a devotional at Antelope Overlook at the end of the day, Fernando said “I want to sing the doxology.” He stood above us and sang out a beautiful rendition. The last day after Vacation Bible School was done and we had an hour before it was time for the community dinner, Robert orchestrated a game where the children had to plan together to get the rubber chicken from him. Ian had at least a dozen children gathered round him to strategize how to work together to do it...priceless!



Adults of FPC engaged in deep, meaningful conversations with adults of Tseyi Bidaa, learning about clan system, the cemetery issues, community dynamics, church history, family connections, and about their sunrise service at the edge of the canyon on Easter followed by the breakfast and church service. Virginia and Ella shared about the process and tradition of weaving. Peter E. and Nancy fed us well. Steve energized all as the Master of Ceremonies for opening and closing VBS. Jasmine with assistance from Carol S. and Ethan scooped out, served and engaged imaginations at her station. Ann and Peter made the Bible come alive with reenactments of scripture in Bible Adventures. Carol A. engaged the children with real life situations where the daily theme vibrated. Jeanne communicated the themes through coordination of snacks that involved creativity, as well as yummy treats to be eaten. Robert was most happy to be able to be outside and just play with the kids, reminding them of God’s great love through team work, running, playing, and laughing. As for me,



my heart is bursting at the seams with the joy of it all, the success of us all building relationships within our community and with theirs. Woven into all of that, was the majesty of the land, of the canyon, of God’s awesome creation. Truly the Holy Spirit was present from the planning, throughout the experiences and even as we carry on in our lives here in Mesa, with eyes to see anew, and with hearts expanded by what we shared. As we were loading in our cars to leave, it felt like family as we exchanged hugs and handshakes. “I will miss you!” “See you next year!”



Thank you, Holy Creator God, for these experiences! We have answered your call and reached out with love, as Jesus directed us. We have been touched by your love through the Navajo people of Tseyi Bidaa. We have been touched by your love in one another. We have been touched by the majesty of your creation in Canyon de Chelly. Thank you for the opportunity to serve through building relationships. Thank you for Vacation Bible School curriculum which allowed us to celebrate your love and to cultivate friendships. Thank you for all at FPC who supported us in their thoughts and prayers. You are an awesome God and we praise you! Amen

## August Birthdays



Verna Green	5th
Todd Verch	6th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ayden Hickey	8th
Tom Dye	9th
Rosemary Chisnall	10th
Gary Marshall	11th
Jo Beth Walstrom	11th
Carol Webster	12th
Lora Vitale	18th
Jim Bruening	19th
Eliana Couillard	19th
Lynette Belew	20th
Bettylou Edwards	20th
Robert Gerlach	20th
Patricia Woodrum	23rd
Lanai Mills	25th
Tricia Ramsey	25th
Sean Smith	25th
Doug McInelly	26th
Mary Rugg	26th
Mark Waters	26th
Burton Newbry	28th
Evangelina Couillard	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.

Gary's Memorial Service will be Saturday, August 12th, at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Our family is so small that we would consider it a blessing if you would join us.  
Sandra and Kelly Clark

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Schroeder, Richard & Sharon  
4202 E. Broadway Rd., #49  
Mesa, AZ 85206

### Calendar Notes

August 7  
Deacons meet

August 10  
Preschool Open House

August 20  
Christian Education Kick-Off  
Commission & Session meet

August 24  
First day of Preschool

August 27  
Monthly Food Drive  
Ice Cream Social,  
featuring Dan Sitzler's band, Fatigo

August 30  
Wednesday WRAP begins



### IN MEMORIAM

Fran Watson, May 29, 2017  
Gary Clark, June 22, 2017  
Wayne Scriba, July 12, 2017  
Alice Peterson, July 16, 2017  
Jim Norris, July 21, 2017  
Spencer Hoff, July 23, 2017



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

See calendar on website:  
<http://www.fpcmesa.org/about-us/current-events>

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**Ann Conklin, Pastor**

**Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries**

**Jasmine Couillard, Christian Education Director**

**Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications**

**Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director**

**Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor**

**Anita Ramsey, Youth Director**

**Teresa Kiser, Bookkeeper**

**James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**

**Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus**