

La Palabra

November 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Thanksgiving and Gratitude Abound!

My heart is filled with joy, thanksgiving, and gratitude to God and to all who gave of themselves to ensure such a beautiful celebration of worship and fellowship for my installation as your pastor. I am deeply moved!

As I sat in worship, enjoying the wonderful music prepared by several of our choirs and directed by our fabulous Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Mark Ramsey, I was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who has been guiding and leading this process from the very beginning. As I listened to Rev. Dr. Jim Bruening preach, I felt blessed to be a part of the long line of pastors who have served this congregation, as well as grateful for the many retired pastors who are currently part of our congregation, providing support and encouragement for me along the way. The charges given to me and to the congregation seemed tailor made for us, and I trust that with God's help, we can live into these wise words.

As I greeted so many of you following worship, I was overwhelmed with joy at coming to know so many faithful servants of the Lord, all gathered in one place. And as I gazed around Fellowship Hall at the tables beautifully set and the food lovingly prepared, I give thanks for the many hands and hearts that prepared such a joyful feast of abundance! It reminded me of a wedding reception, and it occurred to me how fitting that image is: for we had just made vows of faithfulness and care for one another, vows to work together for a common good and for God's glory; vows to love and listen to one another as we journey through this life together.

As Christians, our mode of being is one of thanksgiving! All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God, and we express our gratitude by offering our thanks and praise ~ our gratitude ~ back unto God! It is more than a holiday which falls on a Thursday in late November; it is a way of life! And I give thanks to God that I have been called to live this life with you at First Presbyterian Church of Mesa!

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

Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir invites you to *“Mickey and Meatballs,”* a Disney Concert and Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to be presented in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 4th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Freewill donations will go toward the bell choir fund, for off-campus performances and for handbell upkeep. The bell choir will entertain you with Disney favorites at 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30. Come when you want, and stay as long as you like!

During Pastor Ann's Installation Service, The Sanctuary Choir sang Ernest Bloch's *Silent Devotion*, from "Sacred Service" (Avodath Hakodesh). The anthem was purchased as a gift to the Sanctuary Choir by Gordon and Carol Letizia. Thank you, Gordon & Carol!

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas. If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to be used in the Sanctuary during the Advent season, order forms are available at the kiosk or in the Church Office. The poinsettias are \$10 apiece. Please return the form, with payment attached, to the church office. Deadline for response is December 18th.

The First Players will present their 22nd annual theatrical production on March 23, 24, and 25, adding at least one show on Sunday, a new matinee performance. The show will be **DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**. Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, December 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Audition librettos and production schedules will be available in the Church Office on Sunday, November 12th. Step into the enchanted world of Broadway's modern classic, **DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**, an international sensation that has played to over 35 million people worldwide in 13 countries.

Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version includes all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for over thirteen years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince



trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. Join the First Players this March for a *“tale as old as time!”* For further production information and for tickets, visit the First Players webpage, fpcmesa.org/first-players

Be a part of this year's “Carols by Candlelight!” The event will take place on Saturday, December 2nd. We'll meet in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. to hang Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, then we'll enjoy a catered supper (5:30) followed by a brief time to sing carols in our candlelit Sanctuary (6:00). Reservations are necessary for supper and song sheets! Please leave a message for Mark Ramsey in the Church Office by November 20th if you plan to attend.

Coming Events

- 12/2 (Saturday) Carols by Candlelight
- 12/24 (Sunday) Christmas Eve, "Music Sunday," Combined Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with Candlelight Communion Services at 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
- 12/28 (Thursday) Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir at Phoenix ZooLights, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 12/31 (Sunday) New Year's Eve, Combined Worship at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Humoresque

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

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. However, all the league records were unfortunately destroyed in a fire. Thus we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.
(from Graham Walker)

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!

- November 4 — Mickey & Meatballs Spaghetti Dinner
- November 11 — Community Yard Sale, 8:00 a.m. to noon



Presbyterian Woman — We will have our annual bake sale as part of the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, November 11th. We invite all women in PW, as well as members of the church family, to contribute HOME BAKED items to this sale. Bring your contribution to the church parlor between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, November 10th, or bring it to the Community Yard Sale on Saturday morning. **YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES** — Cookies, Brownies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Jams, Pickles, Candies... Proceeds will benefit PW mission projects. Cash donations will be gratefully accepted from members who are unable (or prefer not) to bake.

Circles meet: Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m. in parlor. Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. in members' homes. Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon in Parlor. Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. in Library. PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday, November 7th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library.

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

Wednesday WRAP will meet four times in November! Don't miss out on the fun! We will enjoy music, dinner, fellowship, games and Bible study! WRAP goes from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and all are welcome! The themes for this month are:

November 1 – Mustache Night
November 8 – Veteran's Night
November 15 – Pajama Party
November 29 – Biker Night

The **Wednesday WRAP Adult Bible study** is welcoming new members and visitors. Join us at 5:40 for dinner in Fellowship Hall and stay to discuss *Making Sense of the Bible*. The author Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as: How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? And, is the Bible ever wrong?



The following is an excerpt from Arizona First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional community relations, outreach, and awareness publication in September 2017.

Enas Patros and her husband Neo, became concerned when their son, Joseph, was just two years old. Joseph didn't talk much and would get embarrassed and frustrated when trying to communicate. "Since we speak three different languages at home, I was concerned this was delaying his speech," said Patros.

As a new mom, Patros was worried and not sure how to help Joseph. When she was referred to Quality First, First Presbyterian Preschool in Mesa, she decided to try it. Patros hoped Joseph would open up and communicate more if he interacted with other young kids, but her top priority was to find a safe place for Joseph – a center that would feel like home. Quality First is a signature program of First Things First that partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona. The main purpose is to make quality improvements that research proves help children thrive.

Joseph struggled the first three weeks at the preschool. He cried and wanted to go home every day. "It was hard on both Joseph and me, but the staff at the preschool reassured me that Joseph was showing progress," said Patros. "They listened to my concerns and worked diligently with us." By the fourth week, everything began to change. Joseph was happy and eager to go to school every day. He started playing with friends and learning new things. With the help and advice of the teachers, speech delays were identified and Joseph began speech therapy. Within six months, Joseph was using more words, and he started opening up by communicating his feelings and needs. Patros and her husband were relieved and thankful for all the support.

A year later little Noah joined his big brother, Joseph, at First Presbyterian Preschool. "I discovered that every child is different, and I learned how to interact with Joseph and Noah using activities that help them develop new skills," said Patros. "The staff at First Presbyterian Preschool taught me how to teach my kids at home through play using simple things like water and Play-Doh instead of expensive toys."

When the family moved from Mesa to Gilbert, they were sad to leave First Presbyterian Preschool. But, Patros knew the preschool had prepared both Joseph and Noah for the transition. The boys easily adapted to their new school, friends, and teachers. Joseph, now a first grader, loves to learn new concepts and read. He wants to become a doctor. Noah just started kindergarten. He loves to fix things and hopes to be an engineer.

Patros is grateful she learned so much at the preschool. She now shares the importance of the early years in the life of young children with all her friends, and she is working on her CDA in early education. "The staff at First Presbyterian Preschool made our family feel at home. I now feel stronger, better prepared, and patient to meet the needs of my four children," she said.



MISSION

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

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

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

Thank you for being the face of Christ in the world!

Community Yard Sale will be Saturday November 11th, from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 noon. As in the past, we will have tables available to reserve, at no charge, for your own yard sale items or crafts as well as tables available for our church neighbors. Call the church office to reserve your table by November 3rd. There will also be tables for mission trip participants to sell your donations, with proceeds going to the 2018 mission trip. Please bring your donations for the mission trip sales to the church parlor Friday afternoon, November 10th, between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. or bring them before 8:00 a.m. the morning of the sale. Furthermore, PW will have their annual bake sale. Come be part of this community event!



Peace and Global Witness Special Offering – Thank you for your giving. We received \$1227. \$306.75 will go to our mission co-worker in Guatemala and the rest will go to PCUSA world mission.

Shoe Drive was successful. Thank you for supporting our partners at Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian church in Del Muerto. The shoes will be delivered to Danny and Virginia Halwood at Presbytery on November 4th.

Food Pantry – As always, thank you for your ongoing support and generosity to the food pantry. They need cereal, canned fruits, canned vegetables but not green beans and canned meats like ravioli or beef stew or chili with meat but not tuna fish.

I Help is looking for volunteers to help in many capacities. Most positions would be for once a month and include volunteers for taking prayer requests, laundry pick up, Sunday evening host and shopping for lunch items. Also, there is a need to help with the breakfast crew on Monday mornings. Contact Janet Verch at 480-218-1357.

Recycle your bottles and cans to benefit the Youth Fund. Bring your bottles and cans to church and put them in the barrel behind Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Carol Strouse.

Christmas Angel Tree: FPC is sponsoring three needy neighborhood families this Christmas. We will be providing gifts and a holiday meal for each family. The Christmas Angel Tree will be set up in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 26th, and decorated with paper angel ornaments labeled with family names and designated gift items. Please take an angel from the tree and purchase the gift requested. Wrap your gift with holiday paper and attach the angel on the outside of the gift. **Gifts and food will be delivered on Sunday, December 17th.** Questions? Contact Darlene Sitzler or Sandy Clark. If you have a pickup or van and would like to help deliver the gifts and food, contact: Darlene Sitzler 480-833-5203 or Sandy Clark 480-835-1338. Thank you for your support of this long-standing Christmas tradition.



Household and personal care items for families on the Christmas Angel Tree are also needed. There will be a collection box in the church office to receive toilet paper, shampoo, laundry detergent, light bulbs, Kleenex, dish detergent and bath soap. We appreciate all contributions to this project.



Thank you for the cards, visits, and prayers during my stay in the hospital. Ann, Mark and Jack brightened my day with their visits and so many good wishes from congregation members helped in my recovery. Jim was always there for me with his loving support. The love and prayers of our community of faith are a God-send to anyone needing help. Thank you so much!

Laura Bruening

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Robert Harding
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

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

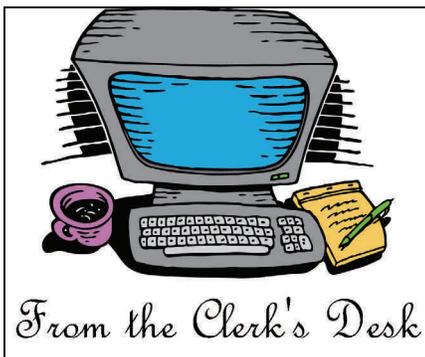
Nominating (D) — Steve Post
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

First Presbyterian Church Mesa — Prayer Garden

Our Prayer Garden is located on the east side of the walkway between the Trinity Building and the west side of our sanctuary. It has been recently refreshed with new landscaping and refurbished low voltage lighting. The gate is now secured with a key lock verses a chain and padlock. A Trinity Building or church master "A" key will open the gate.

Inside the Prayer Garden, against the east wall, is our Columbarium. It has many members of our church inurned there and there are memorial plaques on the north garden wall in memory of our members.

It is a great place to visit before or after our church services to remember past members and a quiet place to gather your thoughts and offer your prayers.



From the Clerk's Desk

- Postcards will go out to 700 local residences this week in hopes that some will join us in worship. Please welcome newcomers.
 - The Worship Commission is requesting one time or continuing help with Sanctuary decoration.
 - The decision has been made to lock the west (side) door during services. This will be enacted as soon as we have a sign to direct latecomers to the front door.
 - The front entrance slate will soon be replaced with a stamped concrete surface.
 - Mesa Makes a Difference day is October 28th. We will NOT be cleaning ditches this year!
- Session approved job descriptions for a bookkeeper and a youth director.

November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Steve Muth	2nd
Jane Potyka	2nd
Scot Logan	3rd
Jack Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
Charlene Raikes	7th
Vivian Hoyman	8th
Amanda Hoyman	11th
William Letizia	11th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Martha Bienert	21st
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Ainslie Read	22nd
Mary Beth McMichael	23rd
Gail Wylie	23rd
Flinn Lund	26th
John John Schlak	26th
Karyn Weaver	27th
Jade Fleener	29th
Bob Free	29th
Arlene Wagner	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.



IN MEMORIAM

Andrea Schultz, October 6, 2017



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Free, Bob & Linda
Phone change: 480-747-0641

Hildenbrand, Lois*
Lanstra, Bert
PO Box 27949
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312

Loraditch, Larry
Brookdale Assisted Living
2122 E. Brown Rd., #1
Mesa, AZ 85213

Olmstead, Myrna
Phone change: 480-793-0183

Smith, Sean & Jennifer
6519 E. Palm St.
Mesa, AZ 85215

*Please remember Lois and Bert are not permitted to respond to contact from parishioners of FPC Mesa for a year after their departure.

Calendar Notes

November 3 & 4

Super Start! For Youth

November 4

Dei Gloriam presents "Mickey & Meatballs"

November 11

Community Yard Sale
Ramsey/MacDonald Wedding

November 13 & 14

Circles meet

November 19

Commissions & Session meet

November 23

Thanksgiving
(Office closed 11/23 & 24)

November 26

Monthly Food Drive

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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

First Presbyterian Church

161 North Mesa Drive

Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone: 480-964-8606

E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

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

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

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus