

La Palabra

March 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

We are now in the midst of the season of Lent, a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. With that in mind, here is some information you may find interesting followed by a reflection you may find meaningful during this season of self-reflection and self-examination.

Everything you Ever Wanted To Know About Lent

Where did Lent get its name?

The word “Lent” originally meant “springtime.” Because the church season always fell at that time of year, the name came to apply to it as well. Even after the word “Lent” was no longer used for spring, it was still used by the church to describe the season leading up to Easter.

Why does Lent last forty days?

The early church celebrated Lent only for a few days before Easter. Over the centuries, the length of the season grew until it was several weeks long. In the seventh century, the church set the period of Lent at forty days (excluding Sundays) in order to remind people of the duration of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness.

How did the tradition of “giving up something for Lent” start?

Over the centuries, the church began to baptize and confirm people on days other than Easter Sunday. Lent was no longer a time of preparation for these events, but it remained as a special time of prayer and fasting. After the Reformation, the discipline of fasting became unpopular. Thus, as a way of preserving Lent as a time of self-sacrifice, the church leaders encouraged people to give up something during Lent that they enjoyed.

What does Lent mean for us today?

Lent is still the church season in which we prepare for Easter Sunday. It is a special time of prayer and reflection, of confession and self-sacrifice. It is a time to remember the temptation, the suffering, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Most of all, it is a time to ready ourselves for the humble thankfulness and sheer joy of Easter morning – it is a time to ready ourselves to meet our risen Lord once again!

Grace and peace in the hope of our crucified and risen Lord ~

Pastor Ann

(Please see Pastor Ann’s Reflections on Fasting / Feasting on page 5.)

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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

The FPC Artist Series will present Organist Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler in concert on Women's Sunday, March 4th, at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Born in Pomerania, Poland, Ilona grew up during the era of communism and witnessed the country's transition to capitalism. Acquiring a passport at the age of 15 allowed her to see the West for the first time. The shock of the experience inspired her to explore the world beyond her home country. She has traveled, mainly as a performer, through most of Europe, and South and North America. She performs concerts as a soloist, chamber musician, and in duo Zeelab with Jacob Adler.

FPC 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.

The First Players will present their 22nd annual theatrical production on March 23, 24, and 25, including a new matinee performance. The show will be **DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**. Join the First Players for a



"tale as old as time." **Tickets are available** on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall, in the Church Office during the week, and online at fpcmesa.org/first-players. 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.

The Sanctuary Choir and Pianist Bea Towe will present the Tenebrae cantata by American composer Hal Hopson on Maundy Thursday (March 29), at 7:00 p.m. With the gradual extinguishing of candles, the cantata interweaves congregational singing with solos, narrations, and creative, dramatic choral music. Invite your friends to join us as we worship with this stirringly depictive work for the holy season.

Our Easter Worship services (April 1st) will be held at 6:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m. A pancake breakfast will be provided by our Scouts, following the 6:00 a.m. service and throughout the morning, and donations will be gladly accepted!

Coming Events

- The Great Surprise Easter Event, April 1
- FPC Salsa Challenge, May 6
- Vacation Bible School, June 11-15

Humoresque

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

As a young preacher, my small church had limited facilities, so we held baptisms in a creek. With alligators in the area, however, that was less than ideal. Then a minister friend suggested I bring my next group of baptismal candidates to his church for a joint baptismal service. Naturally, I accepted. The baptismal pool had a clear front so the congregation could see everything. When the baptisms were finished, curtains were drawn, and I was left alone in the pool for a moment. The building had no air conditioning, and it was quite hot. I thought how nice it would feel to take a little dip. I glided to one end, turned, and backstroked to the other end. Hearing a riotous uproar in the church, I looked toward the congregation. The curtain was down only to the top of the glass! An astonished and amused congregation had been watching my every move.

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 Rummeler
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!

- April 8 — Worship in the Park and BBQ
- May 6 — Salsa Challenge



Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 4th this year. This year our guest speaker is Rev. Deborah Kehle who is a Phoenix native. She has been an ordained PC(USA) pastor for 23 years and has served in churches in Pueblo, Colorado, Sun City, Arizona, and most recently in Santa Barbara, California, as a solo pastor for 6 years. She returned to Phoenix in 2016 to take part in the yearlong hospital chaplaincy training program at Banner University Medical Center in downtown Phoenix, which she completed in August 2017. Currently Rev. Deborah is working as a chaplain with Hospice of the West. The focus of this year's celebration is what it means to lead with love. We will be doubly blessed as that is also a communion Sunday! Thank you, Rachel and Eve circles for coordinating this event!

Ugly Quilts Mission Project – PW will host a mission project to support the work of the Ugly Quilt Group of Mesa. This group was started in 1990. They make quilts out of donated fabric, sheets, blankets, and mattress pads. They make the sleeping bags for the homeless out of these materials and then tie the bedroll up with donated men's ties. Inside the bag they put travel size toothpaste, soaps, lotions, shampoos, toothbrushes, small combs, clothing items, wash cloths, towels, devotionals and various other items. While some of the quilts aren't as ugly as others, the idea is to not have them be so attractive that they may be stolen. You can find a listing of all items on the kiosk or in the church office. Boxes will be in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall throughout the month of March for the items you wish to donate.

Circles meet as follows:

- Eve Circle meets in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.
- Deborah Circle meets in the parlor at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Lydia Circle meets in the parlor at 12:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Rachel Circle meets in the library at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

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 Rummier

Sunday School is such a valuable part of Christian Education and fellowship. Each week at 10:15 the preschool through sixth grade students meet in classroom Jackson B. This month our themes will be:

March 4 – Purim
March 11 – Daylight Savings
March 18 – Spring
March 25 – Palm Sunday

There are three opportunities this month to join us at Wednesday WRAP. Each week we meet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for music, dinner, Fellowship, games and Bible study. The March themes are:

March 7 – Dr. Seuss's birthday
March 21 – Spring
March 28 – Comic Book



FPC invites families to explore The Great Surprise. This is a fun Easter event that will be hosted at the church on April 1st. This 45-minute adventure lets kids and their families experience a variety of fun, hands-on activities that are packed with surprises – all while learning about Jesus. The Great Surprise takes place from 10:15 to 11:00 on Easter Sunday. For more information, check the church website.

The Discipleship commission would like to borrow at LIGHT bowling ball (preferably 8 pounds) for The Great Surprise Easter event. If you have one you are willing to loan us, please let Jasmine Couillard know.

Join us in the Summer of 2018 for Shipwrecked! Rescued by Jesus VBS!

June 11 – June 15 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Montlure Presbyterian Church Camp is a ministry for all to find and grow their faith in Jesus Christ. Montlure's primary objective is to provide a safe and memorable Christian camping experience for children and youth in grades 4-12. Campers travel by bus to Camp Colton. Each camp is led by a strong Christian staff drawn from Presbyterian Churches across Arizona. FPC offers \$200 off the camp fees for each student as long as a request form is submitted.



- Senior High 1 camp is designed for youth entering 9th through 12th grade. 06/10/18 - 6/15/18
- Junior High 1 camp is designed for youth entering 6th and 8th grade. 06/24/18 - 06/29/18
- Juniors camp is designed for youth entering 4th and 5th grade. 06/17/18 - 6/21/18



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 pond life, insects and bugs. We will be hosting our annual Preschool Carnival on March 9th during the school day and would love to have you join us! Our latest discoveries around our campus have included having the Mesa Fire Department bring their fire truck, making volcanoes, and spending time outside blowing bubbles in this great weather! We also had a visit from Officer Camberg from the Tempe Police

Department that the kids really enjoyed.

We are gearing up for open registrations for the new school year. We need your help getting the word out about this 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 yours in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations for the Fall 2018 school year starting on March 15th and have plenty of space 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. No nuts or nut-based items, please. We have really appreciated the donations from the 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

(Continued from page 1)

For Reflection: Read slowly each of these different kinds of fasting/feasting; be aware of which ones seem to challenge you; focus on those to which you are called to Fast/Feast during this Lent.

- Fast from judging others... Feast on Christ dwelling in each*
- Fast from seeing differences... Feast on the Spirit in all life*
- Fast from apparent darkness... Feast on the reality of light*
- Fast from thoughts of illness... Feast on the healing power of God*
- Fast from words that pollute... Feast on phrases that support or confirm*
- Fast from discontent... Feast on gratitude*
- Fast from anger... Feast on patience*
- Fast from worry... Feast on trust in God's Providence*
- Fast from complaining... Feast on appreciation*
- Fast from hostility... Feast on non-violence*
- Fast from bitterness... Feast on forgiveness*
- Fast from self-concern... Feast on compassion for others*
- Fast from discouragement... Feast on hope*
- Fast from lethargy... Feast on enthusiasm*
- Fast from idle gossip... Feast on prayerful silence*
- Fast from suspiciousness... Feast on Truthful Relationships*
- Fast from the shadows of injustice... Feast on the Son of Justice*

MISSION

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

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

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

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



Mission Trip

Save the Dates – Have you talked to your family members about going on the mission trip yet? In January we invited you to consider bringing your whole family on the 2018 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, AZ from **July 7- July 14**. Perhaps bringing the whole family won't work, but maybe one parent and youth would. Youth without parents and adults without youth are certainly welcome and invited. Young adults would be a tremendous asset on the trip as well. If you are thinking you would like to participate in our international mission trip to Guatemala in the spring of 2019, this year's trip is the last opportunity to qualify to go. The requirement for the international trip is that you have attended a local one first. Continue the conversation. Put the dates on your calendar. Watch for more information in the bulletin. Obtain an application packet as they become available. *Join us in this life-changing, relationship building faith experience!!!*

Food Pantry – As always, your contributions are greatly appreciated. Currently the greatest needs for donations are for cereal and peanut butter.



It's Not Too Late To Claim Your 2017 Tax Credit!

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries is one of the non-profit charitable organizations that qualifies as a dollar for dollar tax credit with the state of Arizona. MPM formerly known as Christ Häven was started at our church by Bob Gerlach in 2001. MPM provides Mesa residents in need with rental and utility assistance. The goal of MPM is to keep families in their current homes during financial difficulties. Nearly 200 families were helped by MPM in 2017. With your contribution we could do even more this year! Donations up to \$400 for a single filer and \$800 for joint filers can be used as a credit on your Arizona income tax return without having to itemize. Contributions given before filing your state tax return and before April 15 can still be used as a credit for 2017. For more information, please contact Brent Gregory at 480 677-0843.

March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Adam Cronenberg	1st
Cleta Larson-Enck	1st
Carol Letizia	3rd
Joyce Baum	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Dennis Sitzler	9th
Helen Lents	11th
Marilu Thompson	12th
Jasmine Couillard	15th
Pam Godfrey	16th
Anthony Vitale	17th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Marilyn Utihoven	20th
Caroline Cline	25th
Cindy Davenport	25th
Joshua Anderson	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Walker, Graham & Barbara
2625 E. Southern Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-831-3372

Calendar Notes

March 4

Women's Sunday
Organ Concert — Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler

March 5

Deacons meet

March 9

Preschool Carnival

March 12 & 13

Circles meet

March 18

Commissions & Session meet

March 23, 24, 25

Beauty & the Beast Dinner Theater

March 25

Palm Sunday
Monthly Food Drive

March 29

Maundy Thursday

March 30

Good Friday — Office closed



If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary, please sign up today at the table during coffee time or pick up a form on the kiosk or in the church office. Fresh lilies may be purchased for \$10. The lilies may be taken after worship on Easter Sunday. Orders must be received in the church office no later than Monday, March 26th.

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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

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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

Anita Ramsey, Youth Director

Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus