

# La Palabra

April 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

### *Make Ready for Christ!*

“Make ready for the Christ,  
Whose smile, like lightning,  
Sets free the song of everlasting glory  
that now sleeps in your paper flesh,  
like dynamite.”

~Thomas Merton

Are you ready for Christ?  
Are you ready for the resurrection?  
Are you really ready for new life?

This can be an exciting – and yet scary – experience for us. We tend to prefer the known and the comfortable. We can even get stuck in such a familiar place. Often, whether we acknowledge it or not, we are fearful of the unknown and uncertainty. Yet this is exactly the life in Christ to which we have been called! A life where we are not in charge. A life in which we surrender control to our good and gracious God, trusting in God’s provision and good intentions. A life of following Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.

God has more in store for us and for our lives than we can probably even begin to imagine. When we follow Jesus, God – through God’s Holy Spirit – leads us into a life of service and sacrifice, much like that of our Lord. In challenging times, we can lean on the Lord, knowing that he suffered the depth of pain and sorrow for our sake and for the sake of the world.

It is our job to listen and to follow. It is our job to be attentive to God’s voice and follow God’s guiding Spirit. We may not know exactly where each step is leading, but we can trust that God will lead us into the way of life ~ life abundant and eternal!

It is a blessing to be on this journey with all of you!

~ Pastor Ann

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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

We are already entering the season of Eastertide! Worship services on Easter Sunday, 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! Be sure to drop by the music table during “The Great Surprise”. Karen Rudin will share some Easter Eggs and a fun music activity for young and old alike!

The FPC Pure Praise Singers will sing several songs at Karen Rudin’s Starshine School of Music Recital on Sunday, April 15th. All are invited to the concert, which will begin at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary and will include our Pure Praise Singers and Karen’s school music students. Also, the annual Preschool Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, May 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The congregation is invited to attend this always enjoyable musical event.



For a few years, our bell choirs have endured decidedly depleted table pads and covers. New pads were recently purchased, and thanks to our FPC Sewing Stars, new table pads have been created. Because the pads and cover are hidden beneath our table runners, the upgrade is not noticeable to the congregation, so here is a photograph of the covers and the smiling members of our Dei Gloriam Handbell choir.

**Worship in the Park, April 8 (Sunday), 10:00 a.m.**

**Ramada 1 at Pioneer Park (526 E. Main St., Mesa)**

**Bring: hat & sunscreen!**

**Following worship, we'll enjoy a BBQ provided by our Fellowship Commission.**

Margaret Johnson provided music reviews for several of our early Artist Series events, and recently she reviewed another event at our church, featuring Dr. Christopher Samuel and the Valley Chamber Chorale (January 7th in Fox Chapel). Here is an edited version of her review: “Today’s concert was an eclectic mix of skilled performances of music from the 1500’s through the 20th century. The program began with a selection from contemporary composer Alfred Fedak, entitled “Music Never Dies,” This slow, beautiful, contrapuntal selection depicts the many ways in which music affects our lives. Three English renaissance *a cappella* selections followed: Christopher Tye’s “O Come Ye Servants of The Lord”, Adrian Batten’s “Lord, We Beseech Thee,” and a Thomas Tallis very contrapuntal and motet-like “All People That On Earth Do Dwell.” “*Confirma Hoc Deus*” by Jacob Handl showcased step-wise entrances with very moving polyphonic vocal parts. From modern composer Warren Martin, “My Spirit Longs For Thee” contrasted *a cappella* choral writing with a complex piano obbligato, which moved in and out among the voice lines but could stand on its own as a piano solo. In recognition of the Protestant Reformation, the Chorale presented two settings of “A Mighty Fortress Is our God”: the first setting as a traditional hymn with trombone accompanying the singing and the second featuring trombone and piano together in broad melodic phrases, underscored by piano obbligato. Pure Americana evoked the selections from the second half of the program. Mixing African-American tradition with words based on poems of E.E. Cummings, the opening selection was titled “Sam Was A Man,” with music by Vincent Persichetti. The Americana continued with an arrangement by Nina Gilbert and the hauntingly beautiful “Shenandoah” arranged by Douglas Wagner. Throughout the concert, Dr. Samuel held the audience’s attention with not only the musical selections, but also with

generous historical anecdotes about each selection. The scene changed, evoking an intimate jazz lounge as the Chorale sang an arrangement of "As Time Goes By," accompanied by jazz chords in the piano background. The closing number was deceptively titled "Sing Something Simple," by Mac Huff. The song is a parody done in varied musical moods: witty, quiet, dramatic, operatic, amorous, all in close, complete, chorale-type harmony. Extended applause followed."  
 — Margaret Johnson

Coming Events

- 5/6 Salsa Challenge, 5:00 p.m.
- 6/11-15 Vacation Bible School

**Humoresque**

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

"Why don't you go to church?" the Lutheran pastor asked the man with whom he had struck up a conversation in the grocery line. "All I have are my work clothes," he said, looking down at his dusty jeans, muddy boots and sweat-stained tee shirt. "I can't come to a Lutheran Church like this." The pastor then collected some nice clothes from the congregation and gave the man quite an upgrade in his wardrobe. Several weeks later the pastor bumped into him again. This time the man wore a pair of kakhi slacks, penny loafers and a buttondown shirt. "Why didn't I see you at church?" the pastor asked. "Well," the man began, "Last Sunday I showered, shaved and put on the clothes you gave me. I looked so dang good I decided to go to the Episcopal Church instead."

*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 — Todd Ramsey

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!

- April 8 — Worship at Pioneer Park and BBQ
- May 6 — Salsa Challenge
- August 26 — Ice Cream Social (Entertainment to be announced.)



**Big Thank You** – to all who participated in making Women’s Sunday a success once again this year! Congratulations to Flinn Lund who is this year’s Honorary Life time member recipient.

**Ugly Quilts Mission Project** – Thank you to all contributed to the March Drive to support the project!

**Women’s Luncheon** – All are invited to attend the salad luncheon on Saturday, May 12th, at 11:30 a.m. So mark your calendars and plan to join us!

**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 Rummler



Do something new with the kids or grandkids this Easter! The Great Surprise is a fun filled event for you and your family! It will run from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. on Easter (April 1st). Kids and their families will be delighted with surprising activities and special keepsakes that drive home the key point - Jesus is alive! This promises to be an engaging Easter program that is more than just an egg hunt!

Preschool through sixth grade Sunday School meets each week at 10:15 in classroom Jackson B. Each week is a hands on lesson where we are planting seeds in the children's hearts. Everyone is welcome to join us or observe. The themes for this month are:

- April 1 – The Great Surprise special Easter event
- April 8 – Worship in the Park (no Sunday School)
- April 15 – Faith Basics - sin
- April 22 – Faith Basics – The Bible
- April 29 – Pentecost

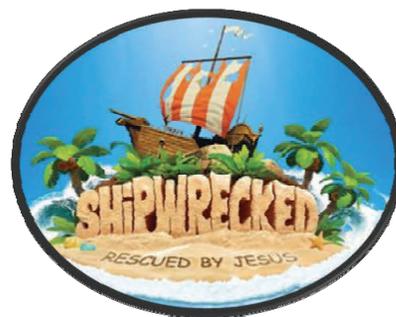
This is the last chance until fall to join us at Wednesday WRAP. All are invited to come for music, dinner, fellowship, games and Bible study. 5:00 – 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. The themes this month are:

- April 4 – Outer Space
- April 11 – Cool Shades
- April 18 – Closing Banquet – Craig Davis Magic Show



April 18th will be our annual Wednesday WRAP closing banquet. We would like to invite everyone who has ever been to WRAP before and those that haven't. Five-star rated magician, Craig Davis, will return to put on a top notch show for us. The doors of Fellowship Hall will open at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and social time. The show will start at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your friends and family!

Save the date for the best week of the Summer! Shipwrecked VBS:  
Rescued by Jesus Comes to First Presbyterian Church  
June 11-15, 2018 from 9:00 - 12:00  
Questions or interested in volunteering?  
Contact Jasmine Couillard at [education@fpcmesa.org](mailto:education@fpcmesa.org)



Montlure Presbyterian camp's primary objective is to provide a safe and memorable Christian experience for children and youth in grades 4-12. Please register on their website for summer camp and complete an FPC campership request form for \$200 off the cost!





Spring has sprung at the preschool, and we are learning about plants, pond life, pets and Children from Around the World. It has been fun to watch the children grow like little flowers and discover the potential that God has in store for them! Easter was a fun time and the children enjoyed the little Easter egg hunt that we had on the playground.

Registration is underway for the 2019 school year, and we welcome anyone who would like to tour our school to stop by for a visit. The registration fee is \$75 until April 15th but then it will go up to \$85. You won't want to miss out on our early-bird registration rate. When you register early, you will receive a free T-Shirt! Please consider sharing our preschool information with friends and families who have preschool age children that are potty-trained. If you refer a friend or family to our school and they enroll, we will also give you a credit for one week of Lunch Bunch for the new year (a \$25 value!) Thank you!

As we look ahead to the end of the school year, please mark your calendar for May 3rd at 10:30 a.m. We will be hosting the community and preschool families as the children sing songs for their parents at our annual Spring Fling. We will then have a picnic on our playground for all to enjoy. We hope you can make it!

Preschool wish list: White copy paper, 3oz dixie cups, paper towels, plastic spoons, big bottles of bubbles.

Blessings to you too!  
Shiloh Murillo, Director

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## 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

### **FPC Mesa is seeking a part-time Youth Director.**

The Youth Director will work with the Pastor, Director of Christian Education, Youth/Young Adult Elder and Discipleship Commission to provide leadership and administrative direction for FPC's youth ministry. The ideal candidate is an individual who loves God, loves junior and senior high youth, young adults and is gifted at planning lessons, recreation, and fellowship activities in a format that appeals to youth and young adults. The session has approved increasing this position to a half-time position and the Youth Director must be available Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

A full job description is available on FPC's website. Applicants must submit a cover letter and resume.

**The Child Protection and Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedures** are now available on the FPC website. The Personnel committee spent several months revising the 2005 policy. The revised policy was referred to the Session and approved at the January 2018 meeting. We used the same guideline for revising this policy as the Grand Canyon Presbytery and General Assembly of PCUSA have used for their policies. This policy will be reviewed annually as mandated by Grand Canyon Presbytery.

### **News from the Finance Committee — Online Giving is coming soon!**

A Churchgoers Giving Study from Vanco Payment Solutions found that the preference for e-giving has increased between 2015 and 2017. Their e-Giving product provides a simple, yet powerful, solution for church giving. Members can give how and when they want with this easy-to-access product. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Donations needed!**

The purchase of two AEDs (automated external defibrillators) was recommended and discussed in recent years. This is a life-saving device that is designed with very simple instructions to be used in a crisis situation to potentially save a life.

We have some funds available from a Memorial and Gifts account to be used toward the total purchase price of \$3200; however we are in need of donations to make up the balance of this cost. If you would like to contribute towards this purchase, please write "AED purchase" in the memo line of a check placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office. Thank you.

## 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. Watch the banner in Fellowship Hall to see the growth of contributions.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



### Mission Trip

**IMPORTANT DATE for Summer 2018 Mission Trip** – There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, April 15, 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 Saturday, July 7th to July 14th. 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!

**Food Pantry** – As always, thank you for your on-going support of the food pantry. The current need is for cereal and canned meat, but **NOT TUNA**. Canned meat could be beef stew, ravioli, or spaghetti, etc.



### Pastor Ann's schedule

The leaders of the congregation thought it would be helpful to reiterate my schedule, which mirrors that of your interim, Lois Hildenbrand. Because uninterrupted study and writing time is essential to sermon preparation, I work from home on Mondays praying, studying, and listening to God's voice with regards to the Scripture passage on which I will be preaching the following Sunday. I am in my study at church on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. During this time, I have many scheduled appointments and meetings and am also called out of the office for hospital and home visitation. Friday is my Sabbath time in which I rest and engage in re-creation. Typically, I do not check or respond to email on Friday.

As many of you know, with all of the deaths and funerals since the beginning of my ministry with you, Sabbath time has been in short supply. The Elders and those who served on the PNC have been concerned for the protection of this important time. A burned-out pastor is not an effective pastor. It is only when I am able to dwell deeply in God's Word and spend time in prayer and reflection that I am able to effectively minister to the needs of the congregation and community.

I am still discerning whether this is the best, most productive schedule for me and for the congregation, and I will keep you informed if it should change. My door is usually open, and I am available to meet with you for prayer and conversation. It is always helpful for me (and for you!) if you call to let me know you are coming and/or to schedule an appointment. That way, you won't drive to church only to find that I am away at a meeting, at the hospital, or visiting with someone in their home.

God has called us together in ministry and I give thanks for the blessing of serving as your pastor!

## April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Dan Sitzler	6th
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
Nina Jo Woods	11th
Allan Schultz	12th
Jo Wilson	12th
Amy Woods	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Diane Byerly	15th
Kelly Clark	15th
Hal Engman	15th
Robert Harding	15th
Ron Payton	15th
Deborah Rosen	16th
Dave Weaver	16th
David Frederick	19th
Mary Martin	19th
Don Wilson	19th
Chelsea Cronenberg	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

Joe Woods — March 9, 2018  
 Charlie Golden — March 18, 2018



## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Brause, Diane 108 N. Greenfield Rd., #2140 Mesa, AZ 85205	Walker, Graham & Barbara 2625 E. Southern Ave., #C1008 Tempe, AZ 85282 480-831-3372
Lowe, Rosalie 2065 N. Vista Del Sol Mesa, AZ 85207	

### Calendar Notes

#### April 1

*Happy Easter!*

Service times: 6:00, 9:00 & 11:00

Pancake Breakfast served after 6:00 through morning  
 (Thank you, Scouts!)

#### April 2

Deacons meet

#### April 5, 6, 7 & 10

Lifetouch Photos taken

#### April 8

Worship in Pioneer Park  
 BBQ immediately following

#### April 9 & 10

Circles meet

#### April 18

WRAP Closing Banquet — Magic Show

#### April 22

Commissions & Session meet

#### April 29

Monthly Food Drive



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

See calendar on website:  
[fpcmesa.org/calendar](http://fpcmesa.org/calendar)

**LA PALABRA**

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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Mesa, AZ 85201

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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**

**Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper**

**James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus**

**Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus**