

La Palabra

May 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ~ words of Jesus recorded in Acts 1:8

Just prior to his ascension, Jesus spoke these words of promise, assuring his followers of his enduring presence with us through the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was quite a day for those first followers of Jesus!

The disciples were all gathered together when a rush of wind swept over them and tongues of fire rested upon them. Faithful Jews from all nations were in Jerusalem, and each heard testimony about God’s deeds of power in their own language. They were amazed!

Then Peter raised his voice, preaching a powerful sermon on that first Pentecost day. God’s Spirit, he said, would be poured out on all people! Peter bore witness to Christ’s resurrection: “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.” (Acts 2:32) “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:36)

We too have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and this is cause for both thanksgiving and celebration. The Spirit is God’s presence in the world and within individual believers. The Spirit is “everywhere the giver and renewer of life.” (Brief Statement of Faith) The Spirit leads us into all truth, and that truth is Jesus Christ. We are able to grow in knowledge of and intimacy with God through the Holy Spirit as the Spirit guides, supports, sustains, inspires, and enlivens us.

The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, Counselor, and Comforter. The Spirit comes alongside us, transforming us into the image of Christ and traveling our journey of faith with us, guiding us gently and patiently toward our true home in God. The Spirit teaches us to pray and intercedes on our behalf when we don’t know how to pray. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within and among us that we are able to lead lives that reveal the love and power of God and witness to Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Friends, we have been called to witness to God’s love and grace and mercy and justice. This is a high and holy calling which would not be possible without God’s Holy Spirit leading us. May we listen well so that we may be led in the direction God would have us go and grow in our love for God and one another. May it be so!

~ 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

Thank you to the Cast & Crew of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* for terrific performances of our 22nd Annual First Players Production. Thank you also to the congregation for supporting not only the First Players but also each of our Artist Series events, through your donations and your faithful attendance.

Don't miss this year's Salsa Challenge & Nachos Bar! The Fellowship Commission always prepares great events for us, so add to your calendars 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6th, in Fellowship Hall. Bring your family and friends and your appetites!

The annual Preschool Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, May 3rd, at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to join our Preschool children and families for this fun musical event.

The Presbyterian Women will host a Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 12th. The event will be held in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m., and guest speaker Ruth Robinson will share her witness and life story, including her extensive musical background and her long-time mission to the Philippines. Ruth founded Children's Concern International (childrensconcerninternational.org), and she and husband Nate continue to be actively involved in the pastoral, feeding, and medical mission needs of that country.

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday will be observed at the end of this month, and we will celebrate with a special Pentecost anthem on Sunday, May 20th. The anthem will feature our Sanctuary Choir in an *Alleluia* by Jane Marshall. Plan to be blessed in word and in song as the anthem blends old traditions of Gregorian Chant with bits of classic jazz!

The summer choir schedule will begin this month! Copies of the schedule will be available on Sunday, May 27th, in the Church Office, Choir Room, Kiosk, and at fpcmesa.org/worship-planning.

Yvonne & Jack Oliver received FPC's 2018 Grand Canyon Presbytery Senior Service Award. Congratulations to the Olivers!



Coming Events

- May 6 — Salsa Challenge, 4:00 p.m.
- June 11-15 — Vacation Bible School
- August 26 — Ice Cream Social, 4:00 p.m.

Humoresque

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



St. Peter is checking IDs at the Pearly Gates, and first comes a Texan. "Tell me, what have you done in life?" says St. Peter. The Texan says, "Well, I struck oil, so I became rich, but I didn't sit on my laurels—I divided all my money among my entire family in my will, so our descendants are all set for about three generations." St. Peter says, "That's quite something. Come on in. Next!" The second guy in line has been listening, so he says, "I struck it big in the stock market, but I didn't selfishly just provide for my own like that Texan guy. I donated five million to Save the Children." "Wonderful!" says Saint Peter. "Come in. Who's next?" The third guy has been listening and says timidly with a downcast look, "Well, I only made five thousand dollars in my entire lifetime." "Heavens!" says St. Peter. "What instrument did you play?"

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 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!

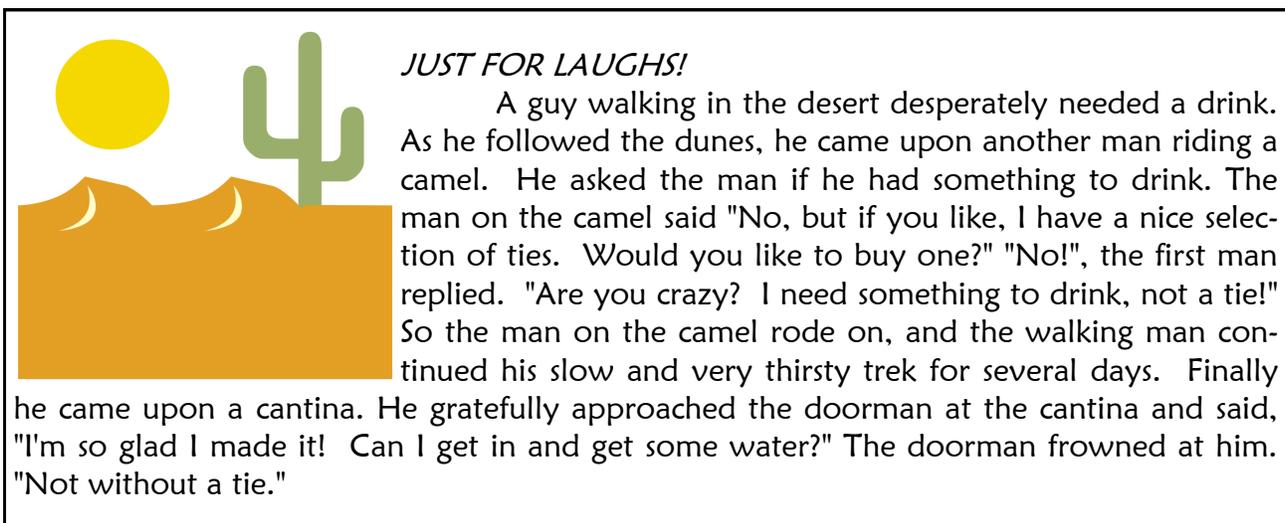
- May 6 — Salsa Challenge
- August 26 — Ice Cream Social (Entertainment to be announced.)



Big Thank You – to all who contributed to the Ugly Quilt Project! What you gave will make a difference!

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

Children's Sunday School meets each week at 10:15 in Jackson B for preschool through 6th grade students. We have fun, we do crafts, we play games, and we study the Bible. Each week is a self-contained lesson and visitors are always welcome to join us. The themes this month are:

May 6 – Faith Basics – Holy Spirit
May 13 – Mother's Day
May 20 – What Difference does Faith Make?
May 27 – Memorial Day



This summer our Vacation Bible School is titled "Shipwrecked – Rescued By Jesus." Come, join us on a venture onto an uncharted island where you can survive and thrive. We will anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. Vacation Bible School will be held June 11th through June 15th, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For more information or to register, please check the church website. There will also be an informational table in Fellowship Hall on May 6th during coffee time.

Montlure Presbyterian Church camp is led by a strong Christian staff drawn from Presbyterian Churches across Arizona. Registration for students in 4th – 12th grade is available on their website. Please submit an FPC campership request form (available on our website or in the church office) to receive \$200 off the registration costs, per student!



Thank you to everyone that helped make the first ever Great Surprise Easter Event a success! We met 28 new neighbors that had never been to our church before. We saw 8 friends we hadn't seen in a long time! Plus, we had church families that participated in the activities. This took many volunteers! Thank you: Anita Ramsey, the youth group, Isobel Letizia, Tanya Snitzer, Eliana Couillard, Mary Martin, Ellen Hickey, Elly Weinel, Mihret Gerlach, Stephanie Gerlach, Mike Gerlach, Jennifer Martin, Marcy Snitzer, Peter Conklin, Sandy Clark, Brent Gregory, Nancy Tordai, Jeanne Partida, Betty Jean Reid, Karelle Reid, Tricia MacDonald, Preston MacDonald, Dennis Sitzler, Darlene Sitzler, Karen Rudin, Shiloh Murillo, Alice Schlak, Kathy Bilko, Deborah Rosen!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
PRESCHOOL
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE SINCE 1986

Wow! This school year has flown by! It is hard to believe it is almost over. We have had a **fantastic 31st year** together with 35 children enrolled! Let's celebrate this milestone during the **Teacher Appreciation Week coming up, May 7-11**. This is a special week-long 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 3rd, 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 Friday, May 18th**. We will re-open for our **32nd School Year on August 13th!** We will hold a special "Meet the Teacher" event for the new families on **Thursday, August 9th**, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Don't forget: We are now enrolling for our Fall 2018 school year and need your help. Now is the time to think about putting your preschool child or grandchild into our 4-Star Quality Plus 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!

Shiloh Murillo, Director



*April Showers
Bring
May Flowers*

"I will tell you my story" Ruth Robinson

Spring Luncheon a church-wide potluck

Saturday, May 12, 11:30

Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

Presbyterian Women present Ruth Robinson, missionary in the Philippines, who will share her life, her love, her music, and her mission.

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

Pentecost Offering – Psalm 71:17 says *“O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”* 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 of the world. Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and addresses the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offer is retained by the local church to designate how they want to use it to impact the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries connected to youth and young adults of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. (PCUSA Leadership Handbook)



Once again, the session has approved our 40% to be used for the mission trip to Tseyi Bidaa. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to the Pentecost Offering. The offering can be received any time up to and especially on Pentecost Sunday, which is May 20 this year.

Mission Trip Update – Praise God! We had 21 people indicate interest on coming on this year’s mission trip to Tseyi Bidaa. We have room for more and you can still get an application packet. We need more people this year as the folks up there are hoping to increase the number of children attending VBS. The first year, we averaged 20 children. Last year, we averaged 30 children. They are hoping for closer to 50 this year. What a wonderful opportunity to share in the message of our Lord’s love and to continue to develop our relationship. You are invited to continue to pray about your participation in the trip. Your prayers are welcome! May the Holy Spirit move in us as we prepare to go. See Sue Eisenklam for an application packet.



Mission Trip

One Great Hour of Sharing – Thank you for your generous support of this special offering. The total received was \$2,613.

I Help - needs 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 if interested in this opportunity to serve.

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



May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Raul Flores	4th
Bill Smith	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	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

Godfrey, Pam
1047 N. Dresden
Mesa, AZ 85203
480-326-5870

Johnson, Diana
220 N. 22nd Place, #1071
Mesa, AZ 85213
480-570-0310

Calendar Notes

May 3

Preschool Spring Fling

May 6

Salsa Challenge

May 8

Deborah, Lydia & Rachel Circles meet

May 12

Church-wide Spring Luncheon

May 13

Mother's Day

May 14

Eve Circle meets

May 20

Commissions & Session meet

May 27

Monthly Food Drive

May 28

Memorial Day — Office Closed



Coffee hour on Sunday, May 6th, will include a reception celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Graham and Barbara Walker. Everyone is invited.



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

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

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