

La Palabra

September 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

What does it mean to BE the Church of Jesus Christ?

We considered this question through a sermon series during the spring and will continue to ponder this essential question as we delve into the Great Ends of the Church this fall. Both the fall sermon series and the adult study portion of Wednesday WRAP (which I will be leading along with Carol Anderson) will focus our attention on what we Presbyterians have named the Great Ends. These six priorities, crafted in the early 20th century, help us as we live out our faith in the world. They not only guide the vision and mission of the PC(USA), but also ought to guide our vision and mission at FPC Mesa!

Summarizing why we exist as a Church, the Great Ends are:



- ❖ The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
- ❖ The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- ❖ The maintenance of divine worship
- ❖ The preservation of the truth
- ❖ The promotion of social righteousness
- ❖ The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

As the Church loses (or has lost) its social prominence and is no longer a cultural norm as it was even just a few decades ago, we have been given the opportunity to define ourselves clearly to the surrounding culture. We need to know who we are and be able to articulate the essence of our faith. The Church began as a counter-cultural movement and we are now living into that same space again, many centuries later.

It is important that we welcome those who do not have a background in the church and come with faith questions and even doubt. As we share our own faith journeys with one another, we encourage each other in our own walk of faith and, in doing so, gain valuable experience in learning to tell others outside the church about our faith.

I hope you are as excited as I am to delve into this treasure trove from our forbearers in faith!

Please join us in worship on Sunday at 9:00 or 11:00 and also on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 as we explore together the unique way God is calling us to live into and live out the Great Ends of the Church!

~ 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) — Renita Jurgensen
Worship (D) — Gail Soderquist

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

It's football season and time for the kickoff of Fall Choirs. We have ongoing tryouts for the music teams! The Youth and Pure Praise Singers began with Wednesday WRAP last month, and our team will offer a Hymn Festival in one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. on September 2nd. Then, they will handoff to the First Ringers and Sanctuary Choir on September 5th, with One Voice and Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir kicking off on September 6th. Early this month, Hearts Hands and Voices sign language choir will also start preparing for our Stewardship Celebration in October! The season is just beginning, so if you are interested in any of the teams, or if your talents fit the praise bands or other instrumentals, let us know, and jump in the game!

All are invited to the Opening Service of the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which will be held on Saturday, September 29th, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Phoenix (6300 N. Central Ave.). A brief organ recital (3:00 p.m.) will be followed by the Service and Installation of Officers (3:30) and a Sumptuous Banquet (see Mark for reservations). The service will feature the combined All Saints' choirs and guest organist Bruce Neswick.

VAUDEVILLE!
A DAZZLING DISPLAY
OF
HETEROGENEOUS SPLENDOR
DESIGNED TO EDUCATE, EDIFY, AMAZE, AND UPLIFT



Join us for the Stewardship Celebration Luncheon following worship on October 28th. The Sanctuary Choir will present "A Good Old Vaudeville Show," an exciting Vaudeville Spectacular in six acts filled with songs and old-time jokes which made the "Vaudeville Era" so unforgettable. Music will include Hello, My Baby, When You Wore a Tuplip, Oh Suzanna, Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie, and Oh You Beautiful Doll, along with a salute to George M. Cohan and a visit from the lovely Tessie Tura. Don't miss it,

"A fabled place, full of style and grace, where someone's bound to get a pie in the face. The old routine, a tender scene, will have 'em screamin' bravo from the mezzanine. For a modest price, we'll give you paradise, it's a Vaudeville Show!"

Coming Events

- 10/7 World Communion Sunday
- 10/28 Stewardship Celebration Luncheon, hosted by Fellowship Commission, with entertainment by the Sanctuary Choir ("A Good Old Vaudeville Show")

Humoresque

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

A sloth named Herman is walking through the forest one day. A gang of snails approach him and beat him up for 7 hours. He is left at the bottom of a tree with several cuts and bruises. Several hours later, he gathers up enough strength to go to a local police station. Herman walks into the Sergeant's office. "What happened to you?" the officer asks. "A gang of snails beat me up," Herman replied. "Can you describe what they looked like?" "I don't know," the sloth says. "It all happened so fast." [from Brent Gregory]

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. —
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) —

Wednesday WRAP has begun, and we are excited for another year of food, fellowship, and FUN!

We have some amazing volunteers this year but have a few spots still open. We need someone to assist in the 4th-6th grade class. Just come and enjoy; no teaching or prep required. Another table parent (or two!) are needed as well as a volunteer to come set the tables for dinner. I would also love to have a few of you on standby for the occasional need.

Come enjoy a home cooked meal for \$3 and some great company. Bring your grandchild, neighbor or friend! Do not forget we have adult Bible study after dinner as well! Join us Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is at 5:15!

Open volunteer positions:

- ❖ Table parent – sit and eat dinner with a group of kids/teens
- ❖ Table setter – arrive at 4:45 to set tables for dinner
- ❖ Classroom assistant – for 4th-6th grade students; an extra set of hands, eyes, ears and a big heart!
- ❖ Substitute list

****NEW THIS YEAR****

Child care for preschool aged children
Youth Choir – Jr. High and High School

See you there!

Ellen Hickey, Elder for Family Ministries

Educational, Faith formation, and Small Group Opportunities at FPC!

As we kick off the fall, consider becoming part of a small group, class, women's circle, or men's Bible breakfast! These are all wonderful ways to grow in faith and connect with others. Classes and groups happen at varying times. Some meet during the day and others in the evening. Some meet weekly and others monthly. There is a place for everyone, and we can all learn from each other!

Please check out the full listing of opportunities at fcpmesa.org. Click on Discipleship and then Small Groups. Hope to see you learning and growing in faith at FPC Mesa this fall!



Welcome back to the new school year at First Presbyterian Preschool! We started on August 13th with 39 kids enrolled! We want to give a special shout out and thank you to all of you who have donated school supplies and snacks to the preschool for the beginning of this year. It has helped tremendously, and we are already off to a great start!

We are already looking ahead to the first chapel with Pastor Ann and welcoming the families to praise and worship God here at our school on September 5th. We will start at 9:00 a.m. in Fox Chapel. Please join us!

Thank you for all that you do for our little school! WE greatly appreciate it, especially the prayers!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam

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

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Shelley Cronenberg
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark



New Mission Co-Workers – The Mission Commission has adopted new mission co-workers: “Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and the people of the US-Mexico Border. Mark and Miriam support the ministry of Frontera de Cristo in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed on both sides of the border. They and their partners seek to put flesh on the gospel through participation in new church development, permaculture, health ministries, and community and economic development. Recognizing the potentially divisive issues surrounding the border and immigration, Mark and Miriam help churches in the United States and Mexico respond

positively and faithfully to these challenges.” (Presbyterian Mission Agency)

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering – “Presbyterians help transform lives through our work for peace, with the tools God has given us. Together, in the Spirit of God, we work to break the power of hate, and heal the wounds of violence and division. We join in the Peace and Global Witness Offer because it is boundless peace God offers. By giving to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we work together to Share Christ’s Peace with one another. We seek peace in a chaotic world, finding strength in knowing that God is near” (Presbyterian Mission, PCUSA). We do this in many ways. For more information look at PCUSA special offerings web site. 50% of the offering will go to PCUSA for supporting those who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the world. 25% will go to mid council to support regional ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. 25% FPC Mesa gets to designate for supporting the same causes. This year session has approved that our portion will support Rev. Mark Adam and Miriam Maldonado and the people of the US-Mexico Border and the ministry of Frontera de Cristo. Please prayerfully consider your giving to this special offering. Envelopes will be in the pews starting September 16th and the offering will be received on Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 7th.



International Mission Trip March 9-15, 2019 – The international mission trip has taken a different direction. For the last two – three years, the vision has been to go to Guatemala. It has become clear that the costs would be prohibitive. At our most recent mission trip, Leslie Vogel spoke of her new role as liaison to Mexico and Guatemala. It definitely felt like God was leading us in a different direction when Leslie spoke of border ministries. The mission commission has decided that the spring break 2019 mission trip will be to the US-Mexico border ministry in Aqua Prieta at Frontera de Cristo. If you are interested in this trip, mark your calendars and watch for more information to come soon. For sure, you will need a passport if you don’t already have one and you can start that process while waiting for the details to come.



Food Pantry – The food pantry has experienced a significant loss in donations. Sagewood Retirement Community has been providing food and toilet paper for four years. They have informed FPC Mesa food pantry that they are no longer able to provide that service. We thank them for all they have done is supporting our food pantry. For over two years, Adam Cronenberg has been picking up the donations and bringing them to the church. THANK YOU, Adam for your faithful service. You have truly made a difference! Unfortunately, this loss of donations will leave a big gap in what can be provided by the food pantry. The Mission Commission is inviting the congregation to

prayerfully consider increasing your contributions to the food pantry. If getting out and shopping is not convenient for you, you can write a check each month and Sandy Clark can shop for specific needs. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this vital mission of FPC.

National Day of Remembrance 2018!

An Opportunity to serve on the anniversary of 9/11

HandsOn Greater Phoenix, a member of the wider Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Network, is partnering with 9/11day.org for the National Day of Remembrance 2018!

Together they are sponsoring a meal-packing which is part of a larger coordinated effort of similar events planned in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Phoenix. Your hands, heart, and willing spirit are needed to help them reach the goal of engaging 1500 volunteers (300-350 volunteers per shift over four 2-hour shifts), and to pack 250,000 meals per event. Meals will be immediately distributed - via local food banks, shelters, schools and other partners - to hungry families in each city.

Here are the details for Phoenix:

Date: Tuesday September 11, 2018

Location: St Mary's Food Bank, 2831 North 31st Ave., Phoenix

Shifts Times 9am to 11am; 11am to 1pm; 1pm to 3pm and 3pm and 5pm

This is part of 9/11 Day, a nonprofit that each year, leads the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, a federally recognized annual observance and the nation's largest annual day of charitable engagement (30+ million participants). Here is a quick highlights video, that should give you a good idea regarding what it's all about: <https://www.youtube.com/c/911day>.

Contact Sue Eisenklam if you are interested in participating! We would love to have a group from FPC Mesa take part in this important remembrance.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Transportation (D) — Steve Muth
Older Adult (E) — David Jurgensen

Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey
Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Hardng

Fellowship Deacon — Katie Masterson
Fellowship Deacon — Carol Strouse
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman
Youth Elder — Ian Harding

Watch for announcements for upcoming Fellowship events throughout this fall and winter. Exciting things are in store!



August 2nd – 5th was the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, in Louisville, Kentucky. Ann Conklin, Sara McWhorter, Sue Eisenklam, Carol Anderson, Susan Durand and Suzanne Engman attended. It was a wonderful time remembering and celebrating the 30-year anniversary of Presbyterian Women. Old friends were seen and new friends met, while taking time to delve into the many country and world issues that Presbyterian Women influence; past, present and future.

Circles will begin our study of God's Promise, I Am With You, by Ann Poling Sutherlun, in September and October. We will be hosting The PWP Fall Gathering, October 13, 2018. More information will be coming out soon.

ADMINISTRATION

Property (E) (Chair) — Robert Harding
Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

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

Nominating (D) — Michael Gerlach
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach



FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

There was no July Session meeting.

The officers and staff met in Retreat on Saturday morning, August 18th. Following lunch, the Deacons and Session held their separate August meetings.

From the Annual Officer/Staff Retreat:

- ❖ Items for discussion included our shared vision for our church. We reviewed what we discussed at last year's retreat and what we accomplished. We talked about doing ministry in this challenging new context of our post-modern and even post-Christian world.

From the Session meeting:

- ❖ Session approved a PW request to observe Communion at their Fall Gathering on October 13.
- ❖ A letter of resignation from Jasmine Couillard was read.
- ❖ The Clerk reported that our membership stands at 287 as of July 31.
- ❖ The June and July financial reports were approved.
- ❖ From the Administration Commission, (1) It looks like the manufacturer will end up having to replace the entire Sanctuary roof (at no cost to us) due to a defect in the tiles. (2) Two of our present gas lines will be closed off due to new AZ Corporation Commission gas line regulations. We are waiting on a final quote for the work that needs to be done. (3) 100 new LED ceiling lights are being installed to replace the old fluorescent ceiling lights. (4) A check has been received from our insurance company for the storm damage to the Fellowship Hall roof.
- ❖ The Nominating Committee is working to fill two vacancies on Session.
- ❖ The Personnel Committee received Session approval to create a new staff position: Minister of Faith Formation, a full-time, 35-hour per week position.

From Personnel Committee:

The Session has approved the creation of a new position, Minister of Faith Formation. This position is combining the ½ time CE Director and ¼ time Youth Director into one full time position. The job description is posted on our website and we are actively searching for the person whom God is directing to our church. We covet your prayers and support during this transition time.

Looking for an easy way to help out at church? We are in need of a few more people to help setup and put away communion elements on the first Sunday of each month this coming year. You do not need to help every month, maybe just 2-4 times a year. Interested? Contact Gail Soderquist, Worship Deacon. glsod@yahoo.com or 602-228-7667. THANKS!

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson
Mark Ramsey
Ruth Rummler
Ron Wright
Diana Johnson
Gregg Gerlach
Suzanne Engman
Sam Smith
Skeets Throckmorton
Beverly Snitzer
Adam Williams
Paul Green
Miki Newbry
Nuha Ghubril
Bill Rummler
Mildred Kimbrough
Helen Thielke
David Tobey
Kyle Harding
Rediet Newbry
Paul Harding
Steve Post
Sandra Clark
Don Wallen
Jeanette Chaney

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26th
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

Barber, Carolyn
534 S. Rochester
Mesa, AZ 85206

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Mesa, AZ 85201
602-460-8558
Lauramo130@gmail.com

Flores, Raul
2160 N. Glenview
Mesa, AZ 85213
480-832-8803

Homolya, Freda
602-430-7511
(Phone change only)

Calendar Notes

September 2

Hymnfest Sunday
One service at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

September 3

Labor Day — Office closed

September 9

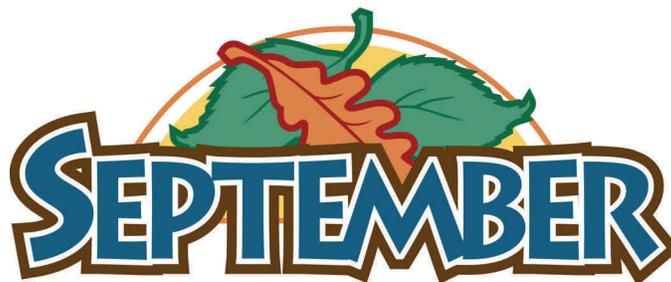
Kick Off Sunday
(Back to 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services)

September 16

Commission & Session meet

September 30

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.

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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
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director
Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus
Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus