

# La Palabra

November 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

### **A Season of Thanksgiving**

What a wonderful celebration we had last Sunday as we pledged our commitment of time, talent, and treasure to God's ongoing ministry at First Presbyterian Church. We were blessed in worship with the gifts and talents of so many musicians. We enjoyed fellowship and a fabulous meal together and were then entertained by a good ole' vaudeville show presented by our choir and directed by the wonderful Dr. Mark Ramsey. I am so very thankful to serve among such faithful and fun folks!

As we turn the calendar to November, I am reminded about so many things for which I give thanks. I am thankful for our times of worship together when I experience God's presence in and through the gathered community. I am thankful for the leaders of the congregation: Elders who have committed to increase their pledges so we can move closer to realizing our vision for future ministry and Deacons who are regularly reaching out to serve and connect with members of the congregation. I am thankful for a hard-working personnel committee who have been working diligently to find the right person to become our Minister for Faith Formation. I am grateful for those who tend carefully and prayerfully to our budget and finances, including our endowments funds. My gratitude extends to all involved in our ministry and mission: those who participated in the Presbytery PW Fall Gathering, those who are planning our spring mission trip, and those who serve in the many roles needed for our Food Pantry and I-HELP ministries. I give thanks for the many hands and hearts who contribute to all that make Wednesday WRAP so wonderful; for men who gather for Bible study and to maintain our facility, for all who study the Bible together seeking to follow ever more faithfully in the Way of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the faithful servants who greet us on Sunday morning with a warm smile, provide bulletins as they usher, and meet new visitors at our kiosk. Thanksgiving abounds for all involved in our many music ministries and all who offer prayer unto the Lord for our congregation and beyond.

God has knit us together in love and for love. Let us not forget to count the many blessings within our congregation and offer prayers of thanksgiving to God. The great company of saints is surely among those blessings and next Sunday, November 4th, in honor of All Saints Sunday, we will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory and honor of a loved one who has passed on to life eternal. For all who have gone before us, we give thanks to the Lord. Amen!

~ Pastor Ann

#### **INDEX**

<i>A Message from Ann</i> .....	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i> .....	2
<i>Discipleship</i> .....	3
<i>Mission</i> .....	4
<i>Fellowship</i> .....	5
<i>Administration</i> .....	6
<i>November Birthdays</i> .....	7
<i>Address Changes</i> .....	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i> .....	7
<i>In Memoriam</i> .....	7
<i>Calendar</i> .....	<i>Website</i>

## 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

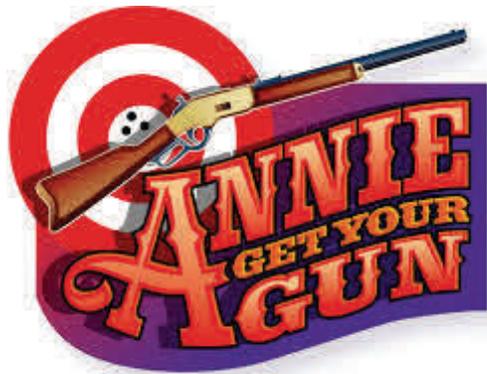
It's time for another FPC Bike & Breakfast group ride! We'll reconvene on Saturday, November 3rd, and we should enjoy cooler weather and a family-friendly, side-street ride of about 10 miles round-trip. We'll meet at the church at 8:00 a.m., ride until we've worked off a few of our breakfast calories, then stop and eat and head back to the church. Our eatery will be the Broken Yolk Café (2034 E. Southern Ave., Mesa). Text Anita (480-203-5432) if you plan to join us! Be sure to bring money, air your tires, oil your gears, corral the kids, and join us on November 3rd!



Dueling Jazz Pianists Ellen & Glenn Brown will play our first concert of this year's Artist Series! The concert will be offered free of charge, thanks to our Artist Series donors. We'll meet in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 11th, at 3:00 p.m. for a concert of jazz piano duets. Both classically trained musicians, Ellen on piano and Glenn on trumpet, the duo will display their keyboard prowess as they set the house a-jumpin' with jive and be-boppin.' We'll have two baby grands front and center, so join us for a program of live piano music in a cool afternoon of jazz. You'll be delighted by the variety of old standards, jazz, Latin, and even gospel music.

Plan to be a part of this year's "Carols by Candlelight!" The event will take place on Saturday, December 1st. We'll meet in the Sanctuary at 4:30 p.m. to hang Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, then we'll enjoy a catered supper (6:00) followed by a brief time to sing some carols in our candlelit Sanctuary (6:45). Reservations are necessary for supper. Please leave a message for Mark Ramsey in the Church Office by Monday, November 19th, if you plan to attend.

The First Players will present their 23rd annual theatrical production on March 22, 23, and 24. The show will be ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, December 1st, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Audition librettos and production schedules will be available in the Church Office on Sunday, November 11th. This 1999 Broadway revival reshaped the 1946 book to create a Wild West show-within-a-show that frames the ageless 'Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better' love story of sharpshooters Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. Join the First Players in March as they show us that "There's No Business Like Show Business!" With an amazing score, featuring hit after hit after hit, this is 'Irving Berlin's greatest achievement in the theater,' according to the New York Post. ANNIE GET YOUR GUN 'will always be a musical for the ages, one of the Broadway theater's enduring triumphs.' For production information and tickets, watch for show updates on the First Players webpage, [fpcmesa.org/first-players](http://fpcmesa.org/first-players).



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 17th.

With much thanksgiving for our faithful choir members, there will be no mid-week choir rehearsals during Thanksgiving week. Happy Thanksgiving to All!

### Coming Events

- 11/11 Artist Series: Dueling Jazz Pianists Ellen & Glenn Brown, Sanctuary, 3:00 p.m., Free
- 11/22 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 12/16 Music Sunday
- 12/18 Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir performing at Phoenix ZooLights (Time TBD)

### Humoresque

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

A woman walking down a residential street, noticed a little old man rocking in a chair on his porch. She called out to him as she passed. "Hello there! I couldn't help but notice how happy you look. What's your secret for a long happy life?" "I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day," he replied. "I also drink a case of whiskey a week, eat nothing but fast food, and never exercise." "Wow!" The woman was amazed. "How old are you?" she asked. "Twenty-six," he replied.

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### DISCIPLESHIP

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

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

Youth/Young Adult (E) —

We hope that you can find time to stop and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and share the time outside with your families. There are lots of things going on around the preschool right now. We have planted our preschool garden boxes with lettuce, pumpkins, peas and sunflowers. They are growing and the kids enjoy watching the changes each day! We also have picture day coming up. This is a great time for the families to showcase their kiddos to family and friends.

Also, we will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving feast for the preschool families on Wednesday, November 21st, at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to donate holiday decorations, paper goods or snacks (cheese sticks, chicken nuggets, carrots, ranch dressing, cookies or juice boxes) for that day, we would greatly appreciate it. We seat all 37 children and their families, typically hosting about 75-80 people. Thank you for your generosity!

We are truly blessed to be a part of the First Presbyterian Mission here at the Preschool. Thank you for all of your support, love and prayers!

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

**Peace and Global Witness Special Offering** – Thank you for your generous giving which totaled \$2,070. \$517.50 was sent to our mission partners at the border. \$1,035 was sent to PCUSA. And \$517.50 was sent to Grand Canyon Presbytery.

**International Mission Trip** – The trip to the US-Mexico border ministry in Aqua Prieta at Frontera de Cristo will be the week of March 9-15. The planning has begun. Pastor Ann, Ellen and Ayden Hickey, Shelley Cronenberg, Marci Snitzer, Peter and Sue Eisenklam are your Planning Team members and can answer questions. Statement of Mission Trip Interest forms plus a \$25 fully refundable deposit are due by December 2nd. Sue has forms if you haven't gotten one yet. The completed paperwork, with half of the mission cost (yet to be determined, approximately \$200-\$300), is due on January 9th. The remainder of the cost is due February 9th. Training sessions for participants will begin in January. Congregational surveys to extend opportunity to support the mission trip will be given out in January. Watch for bulletin announcements for updated information as it becomes available.



### Mission Trip

**Mesa Make a Difference Day** – Thank you volunteers! On Saturday, October 20th, we had 13 people stuffing bags for Mesa Make a Difference Day! They rocked and had the bags stuffed in about 45 minutes! A group of 15 volunteers signed up for Saturday, October 27th, to walk and hang the bags in a neighborhood in the far southeast corner of Mesa. What a great way for us to join the community of Mesa and to make a difference!

**Coat drive for Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church** – Thank you for your support of the coat drive. We have several bags of coats to go to Presbytery on November 3rd to give to our Tseyi Bidaa family.

**I-Help** – FPC is now hosting I-Help on the first and third Sundays of the month. **There is a need for a laundry pickup person and a backup person once a month following the first Sunday of the month.** Pick-ups are usually Wednesday or Thursday. Please see Janet Verch if you can help with this. As a Christmas gift to our I-Help Ladies, we would like to buy new sheets, blankets and mats for when they stay at our church. Monetary contributions for this gift are welcome. Checks should be made out to FPC Mesa with designation to I-Help in the memo section.

**Food Pantry** – The food pantry continues to need cereal and meat items, such as ravioli or SpaghettiOs, as well as tuna. Fry's is now carrying cereal for \$1.49 for big boxes. If you are unable to shop but want to contribute, you can write a check to FPC Mesa with designation in memo section for food pantry. That allows Sandy to shop for specific needs. Thank you for your ongoing support.



**Christmas Angel Tree:** Once again this year FPC Mesa is sponsoring local families in need this Christmas. We will be providing gifts for each family. The Christmas Angel Tree will be set up in the Sanctuary on December 2nd 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 will be delivered on December 16th after church. If you have any questions, please contact Shelley Cronenberg at 480-239-1289. Thank you for your support of this long-standing Christmas tradition.



## 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

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! More events are in the planning stages, so stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!



- February 24 — Chili Cook-Off / Congregational meeting
- April 24 — Worship in the Park with BBQ to follow
- May 5th — Salsa Challenge



We have friends back in town and have started our new study, “God’s Promise, I Am With You” by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Wonderful words of encouragement and love, with a message for all ages.

Hard to believe it, but the holidays are just around the corner. FPC Presbyterian Women will be having a bake sale on November 18th to help you have all the sweets for Thanksgiving, without the work. There will be a wonderful, and yummy, assortment that can be eaten immediately or taken home for Thanksgiving.



## 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

News from the September Session meeting.

A complete list of current elders and deacons and the commission they belong to can be found in the La Palabra, listed in each commission's news.

- Several of the presenters at the Ministry Fair in Worship on October 21st were very pleased with the response for help they received.
- Ann reported that the YMCA has been sold to Chicanos Por La Causa and it will now be a neighborhood help center.
- Robert Harding has been selected by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon as the recipient of this year's George Brooks Award. He will receive it at the November 3rd presbytery meeting at Chandler Presbyterian Church. Congratulations, Robert!
- The membership of the church stands at 286.
- The Space Utilization Task Force's Phase One campus updates will begin right after Thanksgiving. Look for a Bulletin Insert entitled A Season of Thankfulness for ways that you can help.
- We are in conversation with a 5G cell tower company to see if our campus will meet their criteria to install a 5G cell tower.
- There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 18th, to approve Ann's Terms of Call.

**You can make a charitable contribution directly from your IRA if you are at least 70 ½ during the year.** The Required Minimum Distribution is not taxable if you make the distribution directly from your IRA to the Church or any charitable organization. The reason to do this is simple.....taxes. You do not have to report the RMD as income therefore most people will save tax dollars. The tax law changed this year and most people will not be able to itemize their deductions. So, if you give \$1,000 directly to the church from the IRA you do not have to declare this as income. If you are in the 15% tax bracket you save \$150 in taxes. You have a choice to pay an extra tax to the government or not. If you have not taken your RMD this year then this is a wonderful way to take the distribution. Maybe you have already done your RMD this year, then in January take your RMD for 2019 by doing the charitable contribution directly from your IRA.

## October Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Steve Muth	2nd
Jane Potyka	2nd
Scot Logan	3rd
Jack Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
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
Lois Hildenbrand	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.

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Post, Alma  
2526 E. Southern, C296  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-831-3659

### Calendar Notes

#### November 5

Deacons meet

#### November 11

Dueling Piano Concert

#### November 12 & 13

Circles meet

#### November 18

Commissions & Session meet  
PW Bake Sale

#### November 22

Thanksgiving Day  
(Office closed Friday, November 23)

#### November 25

Monthly Food Drive

#### December 1

Carols by Candlelight Advent Decorating



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### IN MEMORIAM

Dave Tobey, September 2, 2018

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*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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**Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon**

**Ann Conklin, Pastor  
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**