

# La Palabra

August 2019

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Ann*

### **What makes a vital congregation? How might we at FPC grow in our vitality?**

The Elders and Deacons that you have elected to lead our congregation will gather for a retreat on Saturday, August 3rd, to discuss these important questions and prioritize the mission and ministry of FPC Mesa. Our discussion will be guided by information from our denomination disseminated to us through the Presbytery.

According to these guidelines, there are 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality which include the following:

- **Lifelong Discipleship Formation**
  - ❖ (as opposed to complacency, apathy)
- **Intentional Authentic Evangelism**
  - ❖ (not just one committee's responsibility)
- **Outward Incarnational Focus**
  - ❖ (not simply inward institutional survival)
- **Empowered Servant Leadership**
  - ❖ (no monopoly on leadership)
- **Spirit-Inspired Worship**
  - ❖ (not consumer or entertainment driven)
- **Caring Relationships**
  - ❖ (not a social club, or clique-ish)
- **Ecclesial Health**
  - ❖ (a healthy church environment/relationships/dynamics)

I challenge each of you to take some time this summer to reflect and pray about these areas and think through which you believe to be most important to our congregation at this time in its history. How can you contribute to our congregational vitality?

Please also feel free to reach out to one of the Elders or Deacons and share your thoughts. Better yet, get together for a cup of coffee and have some good conversation about this important topic.

God is surely at work in our midst and exciting things are happening at FPC Mesa! We want to continue to stretch and grow into new areas of mission and ministry. How do you see God at work? What vision or dream do you have for our congregation? How will you offer your gifts in service to God and God's people?

May God's grace and peace be with us all.

~ Ann

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## WORSHIP

Worship (E) (Chair) – Dan Reeves  
Dir. Of Music Ministries – Mark Ramsey  
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Renita Jurgensen  
Worship (D) —  
Fellowship (D) – David Miller

### Mark's Remarks

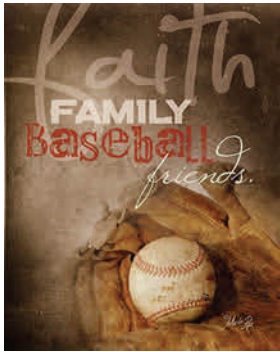
(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

**"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**

Our summer big event will be held on Sunday, August 25th. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. for our FPC Ice Cream Social, and we'll be entertained by musical guests John Couillard and his band Vintage Rocket. John's group performed for us several years ago, and the audience was very impressed by John's commanding memory and his stylistic interpretations of popular charts and old standards. Join us as we once again welcome this very talented group.

*Wednesday WRAP* will begin with a Kickoff Celebration on Wednesday, August 28th, and will be held most Wednesdays through the school year. Kindergarten students through adults will enjoy music, dinner, Bible study, and much more.

Join us on September 1st for a Hymnfest with Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, Guitarist Allan Schultz, Bass Guitarist Karen Rudin, and Soprano Joan White. In addition to a service of Holy Communion, the Hymnfest will include hymn stories and a hymnsing prelude, with a service theme of "Singing Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs!" Arrive early for the hymnsing, and please let me know if you would like to assist as one of our service song leaders, playing a rhythm instrument or singing!



**"Take Me Out to the Ballgame!"** - Our FPC Family and Friends will gather on Friday, September 13th, for Faith and Family Night at Chase Field! Reserve your tickets now for the Diamondbacks and musical guests *For King & Country*, and then come and root for the team. Grab a friend and your ball glove and join us at Chase Field in Phoenix as the Diamondbacks take on the Cincinnati Reds. After the game, *For King and Country* will be live in concert! There will also be fireworks and player testimonials. The Nashville-based brothers' 2012 debut record "Crave" received praise, and the brothers were declared by Billboard as one of the "New Artists to Watch." Ticket reservations will be taken at FPC during Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings!

*Christ is calling Christians ... to cleansing, to dedication, to consecration, and to full surrender. It will make the difference between success and failure in your spiritual life. It will make the difference between being helped and helping others. It will make a difference in your habits, in your prayer life, in your Bible reading, in your giving, in your testimony, and in your church membership.* - Billy Graham

### Coming Events

- 8/25 Ice Cream Social
- 8/28 Wednesday WRAP Opening Night
- 9/13 Faith and Family Night at the Arizona Diamondbacks

### Humoresque

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

An Irishman goes into the confessional box after years of being away from the Church. There's a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the other wall is a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates. Then the priest comes in. "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession," says our man. "But I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be." "Get out," says the priest. "You're on my side."

## FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler  
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick  
Transportation (D) — Steve Muth

Fellowship Deacon — Jennifer Martin  
Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey

Moderator (D) – Jack Oliver  
Liaison (D) – Jan Montgomery  
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman

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!



Come join the Fellowship Commission's Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 25th. We'll begin at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy cool, yummy ice cream with all of the fixings and toe-tapping music performed by Vintage Rocket. You might remember them from the last time they performed in 2016. So mark your calendar and join us for an enjoyable afternoon of great entertainment and cold ice cream.

“Play ball!” Join our FPC family on Friday, September 13th, for Faith and Family Night as our Arizona Diamondbacks will be taking on the Cincinnati Reds. The game begins at 6:40 p.m. We have reserved seats in Section 135, row 37, 1 thru 22. The cost is \$35 per ticket. The post-game festivities will consist of fireworks and a concert by King and Country. Ticket reservations are being taken during the Coffee Hour on Sundays.



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## MISSION

Mission (E) (Chair) — Shelley Cronenberg  
Pastor – Ann Conklin  
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark  
Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak

Fellowship (D) – Carol Strouse  
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Dale Gibson  
Mission (D) – Sue Eisenklam



**Midwest Food Bank** is in need of 1-4 people that can assist in the warehouse for four hours one day a week. The work will be picking orders, loading orders into cars, organizing and cleaning the warehouse. If you would like to

volunteer, please contact Q Nielsen, Operations Manager directly to discuss the day and time that works. [qnielsen@midwestfoodbank.org](mailto:qnielsen@midwestfoodbank.org) or 480.621.1515

**Food Pantry.** Even through the hot months, the Food Pantry is open every Friday for those in need. Please remember to donate food items or monetary gifts as you are able. This month we are in need of canned meats and snack bars. Thanks for your support!



## DISCIPLESHIP

Min. of Faith Formation — Chris McKee  
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin  
Discipleship (D) – Anita Ramsey

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach  
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey  
Older Adult – Dave Jurgensen

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Kyle Harding  
Youth Elder – Will Snitzer

### *Comments from Chris*

#### **God is Good All The Time!**

Life is full of changes and new adventures. Throughout our adventures we strive to keep to the truth that even though life has ups and downs we know how God is constant and always good. A few short weeks ago my family embarked upon the adventure of moving, which was several years in the making.

Prior to 2011, Heather and I called Southern California home. I had been a Christian Education Director at Garden Grove United Methodist Church, and Heather was new in her career as a teacher in special education. During the 2011 recession Heather's small district cut her job so we found ourselves scrambling to find her a teaching position. We discovered there were very few available jobs in Southern California, so Heather started applying for positions in the northern part of the state, which were plentiful at the time. Heather soon accepted a job, and we started making preparations to move to San Jose. I learned full-time Christian Educator positions were very rare, so I accepted a part-time position with Sunnyvale United Methodist, in addition to various other jobs. Somehow we were able to make ends meet. God is good all the time!

We had a rude awakening to the extreme high cost of living in Northern California, which continued to weigh heavy on us during our time in San Jose. In 2013, we welcomed Matthew to our world. We were so happy and blessed to be parents, especially after a very challenging pregnancy. I soon accepted a Christian Educator position at Westminster Presbyterian in San Jose. Even though it was part-time, the pay was better and I was able to make arrangements to be a full-time stay at home dad. God is good all the time!

During Matthew's early toddler years we discovered his language delay and autism. My part-time position soon became a blessing since I had the availability to get Matthew the valuable therapy he required. God is good all the time!

Even though we were able to make financial ends meet, we knew the housing cost would very soon get to the point of no return. We realized there was no hope of purchasing a home in San Jose. Every year Heather and I had a serious discussion if we were going to stay one more year. We also missed the emotional support of being around extended family. My Dad had been living in Phoenix for several years, and Heather's folks recently moved near Mesa. Heather and I knew we needed to make a change soon so we could be in a healthier position. My seminary mentor, Rev. Bob Rohdenburg, often preached how God is good all the time and to let go and let God.

Last December, I learned about the open ministry position at First Presbyterian Church Mesa, so after prayerful consideration I decided to apply and interview. The prayer was answered in multi-faceted ways. It was time to take the leap of faith and make the big change. We know the truth with how God's presence is constant and God's goodness endures forever. I look forward to being in ministry with you. It is good to be home at First Presbyterian Church Mesa!

In Christ,  
Chris McKee  
[chris@fpcmesa.org](mailto:chris@fpcmesa.org)

## Upcoming Christian Education Dates

- **Sunday School & Nursery Training Meeting, Sunday, August 25th, at 12:15 p.m., Parlor.** We are inviting our children Sunday school teachers and assistants to join us for a very valuable training meeting regarding our Sunday school programming. All current and new teachers are encouraged to join us. Please contact Chris McKee if you have questions or if you are considering becoming a teacher and or a nursery volunteer. No previous teaching experience required.
- **WRAP Orientation for Leaders, Wednesday, August 21st, at 6:30-7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.** All WRAP leaders are invited to join us for a brief orientation to discuss programming and expectation. We encourage teachers and table parents to come. Dessert will be served.
- **WRAP is Back Wednesday, August 28th, at 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.** The start of school means WRAP is right around the corner. Stay tuned for further details.
- **Kickoff & Christian Education Sunday, September 8th, at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.** Join us as we kickoff a new Sunday school year, present third grade Bibles and commission our new Sunday school teachers. Please contact Chris McKee if your child is entering the third grade so we can present a Bible to them. Kickoff Sunday is a big day at FPC, and we hope you can worship with us.

## **FPC Youth**

Our Junior and Senior High students meet weekly in the youth room on Sundays 11:15 a.m. – Noon throughout the summer and 10:15 a.m. starting September 8th. Join us for games and a brief Bible study. During the next couple of weeks we will be planning our fall activities so bring your awesome ideas!

## **Assistance Need**

We are looking for assistance on August 11th at 11:15 a.m. to help Ben Gerlach complete his Eagle project for Scouts. Ben and his team have been working hard on FPC's new and improved food pantry. The plan is to get as many volunteers as possible to move the food to the new room. Please join us.



For our August Mission project, we will again be collecting school supplies for the FPC Preschool! Shiloh Murillo, the Preschool Director, along with assistance from her teachers, has compiled a wish list for supplies for the coming year. If you are interested in purchasing some school supplies, please place your donations in the designated boxes. There will be one box in the Sanctuary, and another will be in the church office.

## **School Classroom & Supply Wish List**

- 64 oz Bottle of Bubbles
- White school glue
- Glue sticks
- 8x11 or 9x12 construction paper (multi-colored)
- 8x11 white copy paper
- Snacks - individually wrapped & healthy
- Card stock (white or colored)
- Paper plates
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- 3oz paper Dixie Cups
- Foaming Hand Soap refill liquid
- Washable markers
- Thin markers
- Colored pencils
- Colored Dry-erase markers
- Watercolor paint trays
- Colored tissue paper
- Golf Tees
- Cotton Balls
- Q-Tips

## August Birthdays



Frank Thompson	1st
Grace Njoku	4th
Verna Green	5th
Todd Verch	6th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ayden Hickey	8th
Tom Dye	9th
Rosemary Chisnall	10th
Gary Marshall	11th
Jo Beth Walstrom	11th
Carol Webster	12th
Jim Bruening	19th
Eliana Couillard	19th
Lynette Belew	20th
Robert Gerlach	20th
Tricia MacDonald	25th
Lanai Mills	25th
Sean Smith	25th
Doug McInnelly	26th
Mary Rugg	26th
Angelina Waters	26th
Burton Newbry	28th
Evangelina Couillard	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

Clark, Kelly  
303 N. Lindsay Rd.,  
R58  
Mesa, AZ 85213

Lokensgard, Jon  
Desert Springs  
6662 E. Delmon Dr.  
Mesa, AZ 85215

### Calendar Notes

#### August 3

Officers' Retreat, Friendship Village

#### August 5

Deacons meet

#### August 21

WRAP Orientation

#### August 25

Sunday School/Nursery Training  
Ice Cream Social

#### August 28

WRAP begins

#### August

Monthly Food Drive



### IN MEMORIAM

Bob Harbin — June 29, 2019

Mary Rugg — July 21, 2019



The family of Robert E. "Bob" Harbin, wishes to express our deepest appreciation for all of the prayers, concern, cards, and support you've given us over the last years of Bob's life, leading up to and beyond his "transfer" to Heaven at the end of June. Thank you, and to God be the glory for His wonderful grace to us. Many thanks!

Blessings to you,  
Ellie (Harbin) Broyles for our family

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

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

**LA PALABRA**

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**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**