

La Palabra

October 2023

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from David

A Blessing of the Animals

The patron saint of *animals and of the environment* in the Catholic Church tradition is St. Francis of Assisi ~ a beautiful soul who is venerated, not only because



he believed that all creatures are our brothers and sisters under God, but because of the way the animals were allegedly drawn to him as a kindred spirit.

Therefore, on Saturday, November 4, 2023, First

Presbyterian Church Mesa will celebrate *A Blessing of the Animals* in the courtyard of the church from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. What a perfect time to bring your favorite pet in for a special blessing. Human treats and pet treats will be available, and all pet lovers are welcome. While no reservations need to be made in advance, the pastor offering the blessing would like to know in advance the kind of pet you are bringing, name, and favorite things about the pet that bring you joy. That information may be sent to Revdavidhodgson@mac.com, or delivered to the church office. We look forward to a fun-filled neighborhood celebration!

Blessings,
David



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From the Clerk's Desk

News from the SEPTEMBER Session meeting.



In June I listed the names of Session members. Last month I listed the names of the Board of Trustees. This month I am listing the names of the Board of Deacons: Sue Eisenklam and Robert Harding are the Co-Moderators, Dale Gibson, Cheryl Gregory, Michael McGrath, Kate McMichael, Roma Naccarato, Anita Ramsey, Deborah Rosen Jeff Sehorn and Barbara Walker.

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Clerk's Statistics for August:

No weddings or births
Baptisms – August 20 - Declynn James Reeves, daughter of Kevin and Jessica Reeves
Deaths – August 20 - Rev John Fooks, HR – no memorial service
Membership – 234, no change
Average Attendance – 76 in-person; 97 online = 173

Committee Reports

Finance	Stewardship Sunday will be November 19
Mission	Very pleased to report that 70 people attended the first monthly Community Dinner and Preschool Open House. Session approved a motion to have a Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard on Saturday, November 4th, at 10:00 a.m., Rev. Paul Soderquist officiating. Session approved a motion for a silent auction/raffle on November 19th (quilts and other items).
Board of Trustees	Approved the August Financial Reports Reviewed a draft of the Trustees Charter document Discussed proposed capital projects and estimated costs
PNC	Our Mission Study has been approved by presbytery's Committee on Ministry We are working on our Church Information Form

Worship

The Central Arizona Chapter American Guild of Organists

Presents

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PIPE ORGAN



Not shown actual size

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

161 N Mesa Dr, Mesa

A FREE EVENT!

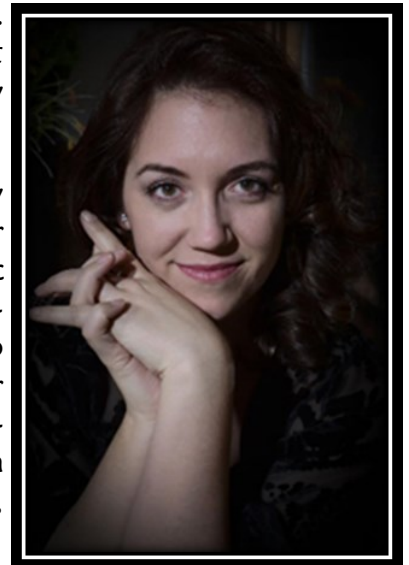
Register online at

<https://tinyurl.com/PedalsPipes-n-Pizza>

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza is an outreach program of the American Guild of Organists. The target audience is piano students who are interested in the organ, but all ages are welcome as audience members or participants! Reservations are needed for the pizza. See link to the left for schedule and reservations. We'll demonstrate and discuss our instrument, and we'll have a kit to assemble a functioning pipe organ!

The Kick-Off Event for our 2023-24 FPC Artist Series will be presented by Soprano Nicole Larsen. Nicole will offer a late afternoon performance in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 22nd, (5:00 p.m.). The program will be offered by our [Artist Series Patrons](#). There will be no charge for the concert, but donations to our Artist Series will be received at the door. In addition to enjoying a lovely afternoon of song, please consider contributing to the Artist Series!

Nicole has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Opera and Musical Theater Performance from Arizona State University. She has developed a music and choir program at a Montessori elementary school, directed and organized music education and outreach programs with the New Mexico Jazz Workshop, performed around the world as the lead singer for Celebrity Enterprises, and toured with Artrageous, including several operatic appearances in Germany. She currently sings with Arizona Cantilena Chorale and performs in numerous jazz, musical theater, pop, and classical venues across the Valley.



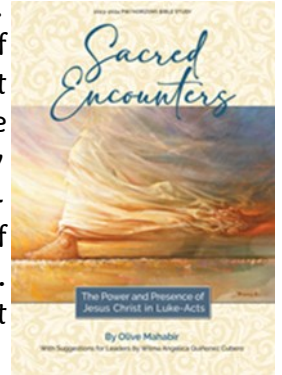
The FPC Concert will include music by Stephen Schwartz, Tchaikovsky, Sondheim, Liszt, and Strauss. Plan to join Nicole in concert!



Presbyterian Women

PW would like to thank in advance the many contributors who are helping to make the PWP Fall Gathering a success. It takes a village – the tech crew: Bob, Greg, Mark and Chris; all who help with logistics – Chris and set-up and take-down crew; the ladies from Church of the Master who will provide breakfast treats; and friends from the congregation who also are helping host. More on the Gathering next month!

After one lesson, the PW Circles are impressed and intrigued with this year's Bible study: Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir. Although we may have known that Luke was the author of both the Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, we may not have made the connection that they are possibly two chapters of the same unified book! Together they comprise nearly twenty-five percent of the New Testament. As a writer of a Gospel, Luke is unique – the only non-Jew, an educated physician and articulate writer, a close friend of Paul, and a proponent of women. Luke includes and honors women more than any other gospel writer. Rev. Mahabir's lessons include familiar accounts of the good works of Jesus, but with a unique perspective and thought-provoking point.



Women are invited to attend a Circle that fits your schedule once or as many times as you wish. We know you will find the Bible study lesson interesting and worthwhile!

In October, Eve Circle will meet on Monday, October 9th, at 4:00 p.m.; Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 10th, at 9:30 a.m., and Rachel Circle will meet also on October 10th at 1:00 p.m. All circles meet in the Parlor. We look forward to seeing you!

SAVE THE DATE!



Join us for an All Church Clean and Greens Day on December 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Come prepared to clean the halls as we deck the halls. Sign-up after church in Fellowship Hall starting November 5th.

Mission

World Communion Sunday is October 1st. This is the final Sunday for contributing to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. This offering will help equip peacemakers around the world. Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering.



Wednesday, October 4th, is the community dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be served, followed by game night. It is free, and all are welcome!



The Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 28th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. It will be an evening full of food, fellowship and family fun! Activities include trunk-or-treating, cake walk, face painting, food, games, crafts, an interactive show from 4:30-5:30 and a photo booth to have pictures of you in costume! If you can do a half hour shift to help or host a trunk, let Susan Chesko or the office know.

There will be a raffle event in November to raise money for mission projects. Some possible themes for baskets could be a sports basket, ASU basket, board game basket, movie basket, craft basket, etc. Any theme would be great! If you or a group would like to put together a basket to raffle off for this event, let Susan Chesko know.

Some quilts will be in a silent auction this November. The quilts will be displayed in Fellowship Hall the last Sunday of October, and bidding will begin November 5th.



AED Informational Training

Join us on Sunday, November 5th, at 11:15 a.m., in the sanctuary for an informational training on our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Ellen Hickey, Dave Woods and Glenn Bennett will provide a brief AED orientation. Please note, this is not a CPR/AED Certification Course, but for informational purposes only. Having the valuable knowledge of how to use an AED may save a life.

Preschool



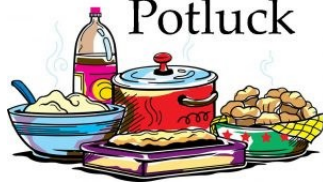
Well, isn't life sweet! God has been so good to us, and He has given us so much to be thankful for! September has been busy with starting our weekly Chapel, our Parenting Series and then closing for 2 days to get our new countertops installed... THANK YOU for being so flexible and patient as we navigate these challenges. We are so pleased to announce that the Preschool is almost full and has room for a few more kids in the PreK classroom. Please spread the word and help us get those spots filled. We greatly appreciate it!

October will be just as busy but with a little more routine settling in as well. The preschool teachers are working with the children to do fun activities every day which include different themes discovering more about Outer Space, Seasons, Weather, and classic stories. We will also be doing puppet exploration and Halloween fun as well.

And by the way, thank you to all of you who donated items, snack and supplies for our school drive. It has really been a huge help to get us restarted again! Lastly, we will be on Fall Break during the week of October 9-13 and hope to enjoy the fall weather changes. Please take a few minutes to enjoy the changing leaves, too. Happy Autumn!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

Monthly Potluck



Everyone is invited to a potluck lunch after worship on October 22nd! Please bring a dish to share. A good time will be had by all!

Just for Laughs!

A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live." Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?" God replied: "I didn't recognize you."

October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Carter Buck	3rd
Rita Scriba	5th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Pearl Grace Alvarado	12th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
David Woods	19th
Dan Reeves	23rd
John McNary	25th
George Montgomery	26th
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katie McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Don Krill	30th
Luke McInelly	30th

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.

FPC Staff emails are listed below. Staff cell phone numbers are listed in the church directory.

David Hodgson: pastor@fpcmesa.org
Mark Ramsey: music@fpcmesa.org
Glenn Bennett: scubasinger7@gmail.com
Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org
Shiloh Murillo: preschool@fpcmesa.org

Calendar Notes

October

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
In person or online

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.

Food Donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken first Sunday

September 30

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

October 1

Deacons meet

October 4

Community Dinner

October 7

PWP Fall Gathering

October 11 & 12

Circles meet

October 22

Potluck Sunday

Nicole Larsen Vocal Concert

October 28

Fall Festival

Editor's Note:

I will be having my second knee replacement surgery on September 22nd so will be working from home for 6 to 8 weeks. I want to thank Carol Gerlach for filling in at the office for me while I am gone. She is very able to handle any questions you may have. However, feel free to reach out to me if I am needed. I thank you in advance for your prayers for a speedy recovery!

Linda Reeves

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Closed Friday**

**David Hodgson, Interim Pastor
Mark Ramsey & Glenn Bennett,
Co-Directors of Music Ministries
Chris McKee, Director of Operations
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper**