



A Message from Christian

March 2025

Dear Church Family,

As the calendar shifts, we once again enter the church season of Lent. I find Lent to be a time of unity for Christians worldwide, an opportunity for us to come together and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and the reason for his crucifixion—our fallenness.

This Lent, we will follow the lectionary for our worship services. We will also launch a series titled "The Paradox of Lent," where we will explore the challenge of balancing joy and sorrow during this season of spiritual preparation.

We are introducing a new initiative this Lenten season: several noon-hour Wednesdays dedicated to exploring Jesus' "Journey to the Cross." These gatherings will be kept short to accommodate those working, allowing them to join us during their lunch breaks. We aim to provide a variety of aesthetic and kinesthetic experiences, such as at the first gathering a labyrinth will be set up in Fellowship Hall for participants to walk through after the service in Fox Chapel.

Feel free to join us at any of these Lenten gatherings as you wish. We welcome you to come and participate at any point during this season.

May this Lenten season be a time of renewal and preparation, leading us to anticipation of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Lenten Blessings,
Pastor Christian

Blooming Sea Figs in Pacific Grove, CA



Purple is the color for the season of Lent, and these flowers appeared as on cue

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News from the **February** Session meeting

Clerk's Statistics for **January**



No weddings, births, baptisms or deaths

Membership: 183

January 2025 Avg. Attendance: 92 in-person + 85 online = 177

January 2024 Avg. Attendance: 105 in-person + 88 online = 193

JANUARY Finance Numbers

Income \$27,540; Expense \$36,627

Capital Income: \$1,078

2025 Per Capita

\$40.20 per member (\$24.36 to Presbytery, \$5.00 to Synod, \$10.84 to General Assembly, based on our ending 2023 membership of 194)

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Session nominated **Carol Anderson** to be honored as our designee at Presbytery's Senior Service Award Luncheon on March 27th at Desert Palms Church in Sun City West.

Where does the time go? Saturday, March 1st, is our **Spring Festival** (already!!) Volunteers are still needed to make the Festival a success!!

Ash Wednesday is March 5th and everyone attending the March Community Dinner will be invited to attend our Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel at 6:00 p.m.

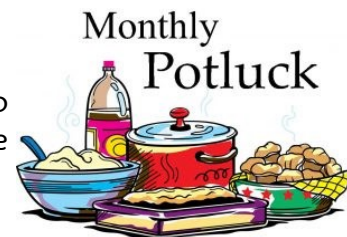
March 9th is **Women's Gifts Sunday**.

Mark Ramsey's Jazz Piano Concert on Saturday, March 29th, at 4 p.m. has moved to Saturday, April 12th, at 4.

REACH UP AND OUT IN FAITH AND LOVE

Fellowship

Everyone is invited to a potluck lunch after worship March 23rd! Please bring a dish to share. A good time will be had by all!



Monthly **Potluck**

Worship

The Lenten season will begin with our Ash Wednesday service March 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel, immediately following the Community Dinner. We'll continue our observation of the season with a midweek service series entitled Journey to the Cross each Wednesday from 12:05 to 12:40 p.m. in the Chapel from March 12th through April 9th. We will observe Maundy Thursday, April 17th, with a Communion service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunday's celebration of Christ's resurrection will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and online.

Mark Ramsey's Jazz Piano Concert has been moved from Saturday, March 29th, to Saturday, April 12th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited!



LENT
at First Presbyterian

Ash Wednesday Service
March 5th at 6:00 PM in Chapel

Lenten Services
Wednesdays at 12:05 in Chapel
March 12 - April 9

Palm Sunday
April 13th at 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday
April 17th at 7:00 PM

“Journey to the Cross”



Come to our
SPRING FESTIVAL
Saturday, March 1st
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Free food, games, & fun!

First Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
161 N. Mesa Drive
www.fpcmesa.org



FPC Presbyterian Women are looking forward to our annual Women's Gifts Sunday on March 9. We are pleased to announce that Lois Hildenbrand will lead worship. We will present the Honorary Membership Award to a deserving member of the church. Please plan to join the congregation in person or online for this special event.

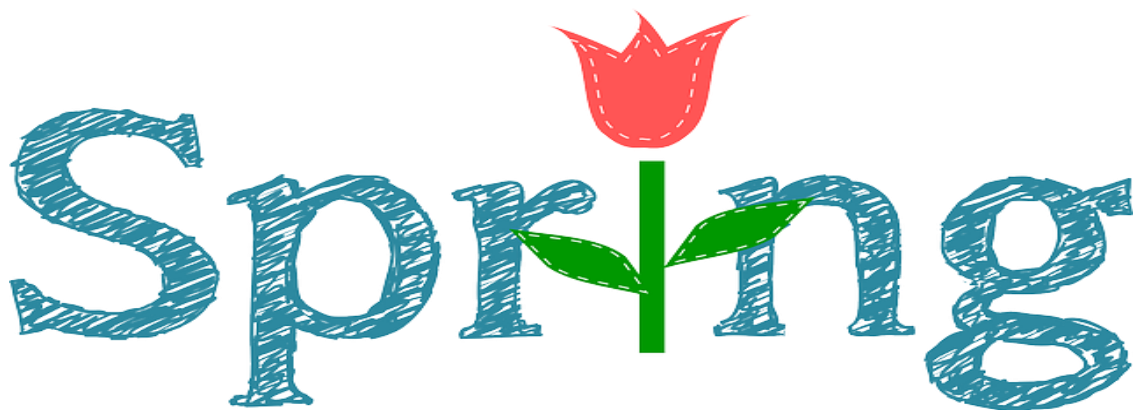
Five ladies from Deborah Circle attended a lovely Presbyterian Women Tea at Church of the Master on February 22. As well as delectable sweets and sandwiches, the tea included a style show with models wearing a variety of lovely attire, featuring clothing and accessories from thrift stores and consignment shops. The point was well made that recycling clothing not only benefits the environment; it can provide outfits that are just as stylish and wearable as new expensive articles. The tea also included a program, "My Own Books" by Mary Twentyman. Her mission is to get books into the hands of children; donations were collected. It was an exquisite event with every detail done to a "T"!



Our next big event open to all ladies of the church is the Presbyterian Women of Grand Canyon Presbytery Spring Gathering on March 29 at Southminster Presbyterian Church. If interested in an inspiring day of worship and workshops and lunch, ask for more information from Carol Anderson or any Circle member.

All ladies are welcome at any Circle Bible Study and fellowship meeting.

Eve	Monday, March 10, 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor
Deborah	Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
Rachel	Tuesday, March 11, 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor
Salome	Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., Sara McWhorter's home, 1053 E. Hope, Mesa



Mission



This Saturday is the Spring Festival! The festival will be in our church parking lot from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you signed up to help, someone will contact you by the end of the week to remind you when you are helping. If you'd like to help and you didn't sign up, just come to the information booth on Saturday. Hope everyone has a wonderful day of fellowship with family and friends from the community!

The community dinner will be next week on March 5 at 5:00 with the Ash Wednesday service following at 6:00 in the chapel.



The Clarence D. Brehm Memorial Prayer Garden

Some of you may have noticed the area that is within a fenced area, surrounded by palms and shrubs, is a small courtyard. The Clarence D Brehm Memorial Prayer Garden is located between the Trinity Building and the Sanctuary, and is the final resting place of many saints of the church. It is a small shaded area where people can come to mark a special occasion, or just sit quietly.

The columbarium contains 64 niches designed for the permanent preservation of cremation urns for members and their families. Its courtyard provides the space for a small memorial service, if desired. There is also a memorial wall where plaques may be placed to honor loved ones who are buried elsewhere. But the columbarium is almost full.

When it was established many years ago, members paid a deposit to ensure that a niche was available when they needed it. Now we are conducting a survey to see if there is interest in expanding it.



Just like before, there would be an amount paid to reserve a space. The proceeds of these deposits will be used to construct additional niches.

If you would like more information, or know of someone who is interested, please contact Pastor Christian, the Board of Trustees, or the church office, and someone will reach out.

March Birthdays



Joyce Baum	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Dennis Sitzler	9th
Linda Zeiler	10th
Helen Lents	11th
Marilu Thompson	12th
Pam Robles	16th
Dick Baird	18th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Marilyn Uithoven	20th
Caroline Cline	25th
Joshua Anderson	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Bill Lents	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.

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

Christian Johnson: pastor@fpcmesa.org
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Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Pearl Blair: preschool@fpcmesa.org
Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org

Calendar Notes

March

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
in the Sanctuary or online

Christian Education at 11:20 a.m.:
Children in Jackson B
Adults in Library

Food donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken every Sunday
Food Pantry & Clothing Closet open every Friday
between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

March 1

Spring Festival

March 2

Deacons meet

March 5 — Ash Wednesday

Women's Bible Study
Community Dinner
Ash Wednesday service

March 9

Women's Gifts Sunday

March 10 & 11

Circles meet

March 12, 19, 26

Lenten Service—12:05 p.m.

March 16

Session meets

March 19

Women's Bible Study

March 23

Potluck Sunday

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

LA PALABRA

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