

A Message from Christian

June 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we step into the vibrant month of June, I am filled with anticipation for the sacred moments that lie ahead. This month, we will joyfully celebrate Pentecost, the day we commemorate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early church—a moment that ignited the flame of faith, empowering the disciples to proclaim the gospel with boldness and unity. Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit continues to move among us, breathing life into our worship, our community, and our mission. I invite you to join us for our Pentecost Sunday service, where we will reflect on how the Spirit equips us to live as Christ's witnesses in our world today.



June '24 @Montlure Camp

love, justice, and mercy in our daily lives. I encourage you to bring a friend and join us as we unpack these powerful teachings together.

As we gather in worship, fellowship, and service this month, may we be open to the Spirit's leading and the wisdom of Jesus' words. Let us seek to live our faith boldly, reflecting the light of Christ in all we do.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Christian

I'm also thrilled to announce our new summer sermon series, *The Parables of Jesus*. Throughout the coming weeks, we'll dive into these timeless stories, exploring what they reveal about God's character, Jesus' identity and mission, and our own calling as disciples. The parables are more than ancient tales—they are windows into God's kingdom, showing us who we are and how we are called to live out our faith in real, tangible ways. Whether it's the compassion of the Good Samaritan, the persistence of the mustard seed, or the grace of the prodigal son, these stories challenge us to embody God's

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News from the **May 18th** Session meeting

Clerk's Statistics for **April**

APRIL Statistics

New Member: Dion Sanchez

Death: RE Lois Boese on January 29th

Membership: 183

April 2025 Avg. Attendance: 107 in-person + 57 online = 164

April 2024 Avg. Attendance: 84 in-person + 64 online = 148

APRIL Finance Numbers

Income \$44,554; Expense \$35,714

Year-to-Date Income \$144,529; Expense \$143,944

Year-to-Date Capital Income: \$8,175

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)

The Shared Pastor Covenant including Appendices A, B, C, D and E with a new Terms of Call for Pastor Christian passed unanimously at the Called Congregational Meeting on May 18 immediately following worship.

The Adult Sunday School Class will meet BEFORE WORSHIP from 9:30 to 10:15 this summer.

The following elders go off session at the end of this month and were warmly thanked for a job well done: Brent Gregory, Kyle Harding, Dan Reeves, Erin Skarphol.

The following new elders were approved by Session and will begin their term of office on June 1: Robert Harding, Brooks Newbry, Joy Schulz, Gail Soderquist and Linda Zeiler. They will be ordained/installed on Sunday, May 25.

Etc.

My term as Clerk ends May 31, 2027. I cannot re-up. I'm looking for someone who knows how to take meeting minutes and would like to talk to me about being a Clerk in-training, to contact me. There is more to being Clerk than taking minutes and anyone interested in doing it would need to attend Session meetings well in advance of June, 2027.

REACH UP AND OUT IN FAITH AND LOVE

(Mission Statement approved by Session 8/25/2024)

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

Worship

Reset your alarms! Summer Worship is at 10:30 a.m., and will continue in Fellowship Hall through August 31st (Labor Day weekend). Once again we'll have a variety of seating options from tables and chairs to sofas, a high-top table and even some bean bags. Plan to get there in



time to grab your favorite coffee or other drink before worship to take with you to your seat of choice. Join us as we continue exploring ways to praise the Lord and pronounce our faith in Him!

Deacons

The Deacons would like to thank all those who gave to our food and clothing drive during the month of May. It was very successful and will help many families throughout the summer. Just like any pantry is emptied and needs to be restocked often, so does ours. We will be collecting food and clothing items throughout the summer months. Drop-in volunteers are always needed and welcome on Fridays from 8:00-9:00 a.m. But that's not all.... We just got word that Gilbert Presbyterian is joining us in our mission with the food pantry and clothing closet. Updates to be coming in future La Palabra articles.

In June, we welcomed three new Deacons. They are Bea Towe, Karen Eberhardt and Dale Gibson. Carol Anderson has agreed to continue her work with the Deacons for another term. This also means that the rosters for each Deacon's Flock will be changing in the month of June. You will be notified of your new Deacon or if there has not been any change. The Moderator and the Vice-Moderator have also changed. Sue Eisenklam completed her two terms as Moderator/Co-Moderator. Anita Ramsey is the new Moderator and Kate McMichael is the new Vice-Moderator.

PER CAPITA

Per capita is the amount of money each Presbyterian Church contributes to the church at large based on its number of members. This year the amount is **\$40.20** for each member of FPC Mesa. These funds are used for the administration of the Presbyterian Church. \$24.36 goes to support the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, \$5.00 for the Synod of the Southwest, and the final \$10.84 for the General Assembly. We ask our congregation to consider making this a separate contribution.

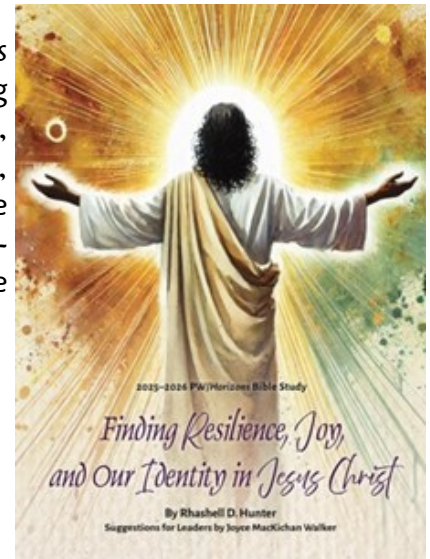
Thank you for your continued support.



Presbyterian Women ended their 2024-25 year with a potluck luncheon that included an inspirational speaker, Laura Pahoules, from ControlAltDelete domestic violence rescue program.

We are pleased to announce new officers for the upcoming year: Moderator – Sara McWhorter; Treasurer – Susan Durand; Secretary – Carol Anderson.

Best news of all is that the new Bible study for next year looks amazing! It is a beautiful book in color with a message about finding joy and resilience by connecting to our Savior Jesus Christ. Of course, all women are invited and encouraged to join any Circle at any time, as you are able. Anyone can order the study book directly from the Presbyterian Women website, as well. But the comfort, joy, and support of belonging to a Circle of sisters in Christ are unmatched. Please consider visiting and joining a Circle group!



Our PW Circle schedule for next year will remain –

- Eve – 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- Deborah – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.
- Rachel – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
- Salome – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

All Circles but Salome meet in the Parlor; Salome meets in homes, as announced. We hope to see you drop in! Please see the August La Palabra for start up dates in September and/or October.

We wish you a happy, healthy and safe summer, wherever you are!

Mission



Community dinners will be served throughout the summer. The next one will be Wednesday, June 4th, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Chicken salad croissants and fruit will be served.

Ellen Hickey received a \$3000 grant for Care Portal to be used through July. Care Portal helps families in our community by donating furniture or clothing to them. Thank you to Ellen for all her hard work in this mission!! Ask Ellen how you can help!





2025 Camp Dates Overnight Camp in Greer –

10-12th Grades* | June 8 – 13
 8-9th Grades | June 16 – 21
 6-8th Grades | June 23 – 28
 4-6th Grades | July 7 – 11

Register at [Montlure.org](https://montlure.org)
 *Grades are for Fall 2025

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

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



IN MEMORIAM

Lois Boese — January 29, 2025
 Richard Baird — May 12, 2025



June Birthdays



Heather McKee	1st
Renita Jurgensen	2nd
Ines McGrath	2nd
Ellen Hickey	3rd
Victoria Martin	3rd
Ken Brause	5th
Don Anweiler	6th
Gretchen Frederick	7th
Zoe Garlin	8th
Shirley Martz	9th
Rosie Mills	9th
Ellen Gillespie	10th
Jack Oliver	12th
Todd Ramsey	12th
Grace Martin	14th
Joan White	14th
Bert Lanstra	16th
Kristen Johnson	17th
Cheryl Gregory	18th
Gail Soderquist	18th
Jack Gunter	25th
Ann Harbin	28th
Carol Anderson	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

Anweiler, Don & Norma
 Inspira Gateway Assisted Living
 4533 E. Banner Gateway Drive
 Mesa, AZ 85206

Wallen, Don
 11818 N. 19th Ave., #212
 Phoenix, AZ 85029

Calendar Notes

June

Worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
 in Fellowship Hall or online

Adult Christian Education at 9:30 a.m., 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.

June 1

Deacons meet

June 4

Community Dinner

June 8-13

10th-12th Grades at Montlure

June 15

Father's Day

June 16-21

8th-9th Grades at Montlure

June 22

Session meets

June 23-28

6th-8th Grades at Montlure

June 28

Richard Baird Memorial Service

June 30-July 4

Montlure Traveling Day Camp at FPC



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161 N. Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201

LA PALABRA

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Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper