

A Message from Christian

January 2026

Dear Church Family,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
— **2 Corinthians 5:17** (NIV)

As we turn the page on the calendar to a brand-new year, many of us feel that familiar sense of excitement and hope that comes with a **fresh start**. It’s a time to reflect, set goals, and look forward with optimism. Yet the Bible reminds us that the deepest and most lasting fresh start isn’t found in resolutions or new habits alone—it’s found in **Jesus Christ**.

In Christ, we are made completely new. The weight of past mistakes, regrets, and failures is lifted because the old has truly gone. Through His death and resurrection, God offers us **new life**, new purpose, and new hope that doesn’t depend on our circumstances or our own strength. No matter what last year held—joys or sorrows, victories or struggles—2026 can be a year where we walk more fully in the newness that Christ has already given us.

This January, we have a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and understanding together as we host **The January Series** from **Calvin University weekdays** from **January 19-30** at **10:30 a.m.** in **Fellowship Hall**. This award-winning cultural and educational series brings world-class speakers to explore thoughtful topics from a Christian perspective, nurturing curiosity, lifelong learning, and conversations that inspire us to be better followers of Jesus in God’s world.

The lectures will be streamed live on select weekdays from **January 19–30, at 10:30 a.m. Mountain Standard Time** (12:30 p.m. Eastern Time). Recordings are often available afterward for flexible viewing. I encourage everyone—individuals, families, and small groups—to join us in participating. It’s free, enriching, and a great way to start the year feeding our minds and hearts.

Let’s embrace this new year not just as a fresh calendar, but as a renewed invitation to live fully in the new life Christ has given us. I’m praying that 2026 will be a year of deeper faith, stronger community, and greater joy for each of you.

In Christ’s renewing grace,
Pastor Christian



A new day dawns

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FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Session Meeting of December 21, 2025

NOVEMBER Statistics

Membership: 173

November 2025 Avg. Attendance: 72 in-person + 54 online = 126

November 2024 Avg. Attendance: 79 in-person + 71 online = 150

Former Member Death - 12/9 Monte Nelson (3446)

Current Member Death - 11/23 Carol Webster (3516)

New Members – Ashley (3645) and Matthew (3646) Sweeney

Infant Baptism – Adeline Nora Sweeney

NOVEMBER Finance Numbers

Actual Income \$32,122	Budgeted Income \$45,177
Actual Expense \$41,971	Budgeted Expense \$44,142
YTD Actual Income \$390,330	YTD Budgeted Income \$475,114
YTD Actual Expense \$440,523	YTD Budgeted Expense \$470,973
YTD Capital Income: \$23,864	YTD Budgeted Capital Income \$19,681

2025 Per Capita

\$40.20 per member (\$24.36 to Presbytery, \$5.00 to Synod, \$10.84 to General Assembly) based on our 12/31/2023 membership of 194. **2026 Per Capita will be \$42.11**

REPORTS/MOTIONS PASSED

Approved 2026 Communion dates – first Sunday of every month plus Maundy Thursday
Approved Combined Worship Services with Gilbert PC – Ash Wednesday (2/18) at Gilbert and Maundy Thursday (4/2) at FPC
Approved Sunday, February 22, following worship for the Annual Congregational Meeting.
Sue Eisenklam was chosen as our Senior Service Award Honoree for 2026
Approved PW request to collect personal care items in January and February for victims of domestic violence
Approved PW request for Women's Sunday to be March 8th

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

Christmas at FPC is magical!





Presbyterian Women are beginning a fund raiser to support Control Alt Delete, a non-profit organization that helps remove barriers that keep people in unsafe domestic violence situations. There will be donation bins in Fellowship Hall during January and February to collect basic immediate needs for this group. Donations can include shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion deodorant, tooth paste and brushes, hair brushes, laundry soap, wipes, toilet paper, tissues, non-perishable snacks, gift cards for food or gas. Any items that can help a victim begin a new life are appreciated. See Sara McWhorter for more information.

Mark your calendars! Women's Gifts Sunday will be March 8, 2026. Rev. Judith Wellington will be preaching.

Circles this month (all meet in the Parlor):

Eve -- Monday, January 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Deborah -- Tuesday, January 13, at 9:30 a.m.

Rachel -- Tuesday, January 13, at 1:00 p.m.



Dear FPC Mesa Family,

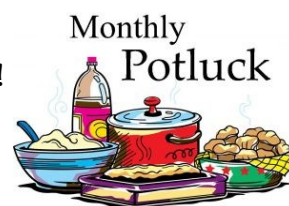
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Mesa Mercy Market is blessed to have so much support in providing food and clothes for our community!

We are currently out of storage for clothing. We will be ready to accept clothing donations again in the spring.

Fellowship

Everyone is invited to a potluck lunch after worship January 25th!
Please bring a dish to share. A good time will be had by all!



Capital Projects Update



Faithful support of the capital fund has allowed the Property Committee to complete improvements in 2025 that benefit the church, especially to technology, air conditioning, and sidewalks. Final numbers from the campaign are not yet in but we received tremendous support from within and beyond the congregation. A shout of grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's fundraising. This success encourages us to tackle the remaining foundation repairs, Trinity building roof and air conditioner, exterior lighting, and sunshades on the Fellowship Hall patio.

The fiber optic connection allowed us to convert all phone and internet to high-speed service, and we upgraded wi-fi in the Trinity building, giving us close to full gigabit service throughout the campus. The new fiber also enabled us to replace the old security system.

We balanced the a/c airflow to the library/ food bank/ clothing closet to improve temperature control, as well as installing programmable thermostats in the parlor. There were plans to replace Trinity Building roof and broken air conditioner, but these had to be pushed to 2026 due to weather and scheduling issues.

The exterior concrete needed attention as well, so we repaired the Sanctuary entrance sidewalk area, repaired sections of the Sanctuary foundation, and enlarged the Columbarium prayer garden seating area. Speaking of the Sanctuary entrance, we had the beautiful wooden doors re-finished so they last several more decades. Also, we replaced the speakers in the Sanctuary which will now provide crystal clear sound in our services.

Thank you to the Chris, Dennis, Jack, the Trustees, and all volunteers who provided technical expertise and helping hands to get these projects done.

Mission

We're looking to grow the mission commission! If you'd like to get involved and help us make a bigger impact, we'd love to have you join our group. You can contact Gretchen Frederick, Susan Chesko or let the office know.



January Birthdays



Stephanie Gerlach	1st
Reynold Njoku	1st
Miron Webster	7th
Matthew Sweeney	8th
Stan Snitzer	15th
Jan Montgomery	16th
Agwu Njoku	17th
Sara McWhorter	18th
Bill Anderson	21st
Shelley Cronenberg	23rd
Bea Towe	23rd
Ashlyn Newbry	25th
Dave Jurgensen	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.

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
 Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org

ADDRESS CHANGE

Gunter, Jack & Fran
 23626 S. Desert Rise Dr.
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Calendar Notes

January

Worship every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
 in the Sanctuary 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.

January 12 & 13

Circles meet

January 17

Carol Webster Memorial Service

January 18

Session meets

January 19-30 (weekdays)

January Series

January 21

Women's Bible Study

January 24

Joint Presbytery Meeting

January 25

Potluck Sunday



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

LA PALABRA

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First Presbyterian Church
161 North Mesa Drive
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Phone: 480-964-8606

E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

Website: www.fpcmesa.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Closed Friday

Christian Johnson, Pastor
Mark Ramsey, Music Associate
Chris McKee, Director of Operations
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper