



## A Message from Christian

April 2025

As we enter the season of Easter, I am reminded of a childhood memory that still makes me smile. Every year, just before Easter Sunday, I would get a brand-new set of clothes. I remember standing still while being told, “Reach out your arms so we can make sure everything fits!” Those new clothes felt special—sometimes a little fancy—but I had to be sure they weren’t too tight or too restrictive. I needed to be able to move freely and comfortably, ready to enjoy the celebration.

This simple act of “reaching out” is a great reminder of what we are called to do this Easter season. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we also take time to stretch our hearts and our hands—“reaching up” in worship and gratitude to God and “reaching out” in love and invitation to others.

Easter is a time of renewal, a time to embrace the hope and joy that Jesus’ victory over sin and death brings us. But it’s also a time to share that joy. Just like I had to make sure my Easter clothes weren’t too restrictive, I pray that our hearts aren’t too “tight” or closed off to the opportunities God gives us to love and serve others.

This Easter, let’s make sure our ‘reach’ is just right. Let’s reach ‘up’ to God in worship, thanksgiving, and prayer, and let’s reach ‘out’ to our neighbors, friends, and family, inviting them to experience the joy of Easter with us. Whether it’s through a warm welcome, a kind word, or an invitation to join us in worship, let’s embody our mission of “Reaching up and out in faith and love.”

May the power of the resurrection renew our hearts and inspire us to be the hands and feet of Christ in this season and beyond.

With Easter joy,  
Pastor Christian



*Cross shaped window in ruins in Chiapas, Mexico.*

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## News from the **March** Session meeting

### Clerk's Statistics for **February**

#### **FEBRUARY** Statistics

No weddings, births, baptisms or deaths

Membership: 183

February 2025 Avg. Attendance: 80 in-person + 65 online = 145

February 2024 Avg. Attendance: 97 in-person + 71 online = 168

#### **FEBRUARY** Finance Numbers

Income \$33,722; Expense \$34,455

Year-to-Date Income \$61,262; Expense \$71,0882

Year-to-Date Capital Income: \$2,047

#### **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*

April is Volunteer Month – we will celebrate our volunteers on April 27th.
The new time for Children's Sunday School is working well. We will continue at the new time.
Session approved the recommendation from the Worship Commission to change the time of summer worship in Fellowship Hall to 10:30 from May 25th thru August 31st.
We will offer carpool transportation to Gilbert Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 6th. Their service is at 9:30. <b>NOTE THAT DIFFERENT TIME!</b>
Mark Ramsey invites everyone to his Jazz Piano Concert on Saturday, April 12th, at 4:00 p.m. \$10 donation in-person or online access, to benefit the Organ Maintenance Fund.

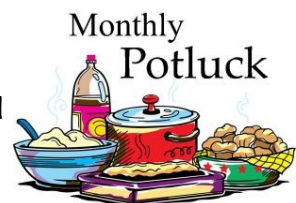
**Etc.**

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.
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## REACH UP AND OUT IN FAITH AND LOVE

### **Fellowship**

Everyone is invited to a potluck lunch after worship April 27th! Please bring a dish to share. A good time will be had by all!



Monthly  
**Potluck**

## Worship

There will be Lenten services – “Journey to the Cross” – every Wednesday through April 9th from 12:05 to 12:40ish in the Chapel.

Since Gilbert Presbyterian Church (GPC) worshipped with us the first Sunday of 2025, they have invited us to worship with them on their campus Sunday, April 6th at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to make note of the earlier time for that Sunday. GPC is located at 235 E. Guadalupe Rd in Gilbert. If you would like to carpool from our campus that Sunday, there will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk this coming Sunday, March 30th. Please let us know if you need a ride or if you can be a driver. Brent Gregory will match riders with drivers.



Our Palm Sunday service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. will mark Jesus’ triumphant return to Jerusalem. We’ll observe The Last Supper with a Maundy Thursday Communion service April 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. And Easter morning’s celebration of the Resurrection will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All services will be livestreamed, if you’re unable to attend in person.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at 11:20 a.m. Easter morning in the Courtyard.

Summer worship will once again be in Fellowship Hall May 25th (Memorial Day weekend) through August 31st (Labor Day weekend). Worship times for the summer will be at 10:30am, so please be sure to make note of the changes.

The A/C in the Sanctuary is now turned on. If you tend to feel too cold during these warmer days, you might want to bring a sweater!

A promotional graphic for a jazz piano concert. The background is a solid blue color. On the right side, there is a black grand piano with its lid open. Above the piano, several white musical notes are floating, connected by a white treble clef staff. On the left side, the text is arranged as follows: "The Artist Series presents" in a white sans-serif font, "a Jazz" in a white cursive font, "PIANO" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, "Concert" in a white sans-serif font, "with Dr. Mark Ramsey" in a white cursive font, "Saturday April 12th at 4:00 PM" in a white sans-serif font, and "in the Sanctuary" in a white sans-serif font.

PW hopes that everyone enjoyed Women's Gifts Sunday as much as we did! Pastor Lois Hildenbrand provided a meaningful and motivating sermon based on Tabitha and her extensive service to others and the love and esteem the community held for her. Linda Zeiler served as liturgist. We were blessed with beautiful music by the Women's Ensemble, a piano duet by Barb Walker and Bea Towe, and we were very grateful for our guest organist and choir director, Alice Edwards.



Our Honorary Lifetime Membership recipient, Darlene Sitzler, was surprised and clearly honored, which was well-deserved. Carol Anderson presented her with a certificate and our PW pin, along with sharing a few examples of her years of tireless service to our church.



Some ladies are looking forward to the Presbytery's Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering on March 29 at Southminster Presbyterian Church. It will be an inspiring day of worship, fellowship, break-out sessions and lunch.

Our PW year is drawing to a close. We will have one more regular Bible Study lesson and then will culminate the year with our all-circle luncheon and a video of a keynote speech from the summer's Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis.

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

- Eve            Monday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor
- Deborah     Tuesday, April 8, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- Rachel       Tuesday, April 8, 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor
- Salome       Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.



We have two very exciting upcoming events planned for our students, families and you, the FPC congregation!

First, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 16th, at around 10:30 a.m. Watch for pictures in the May La Palabra!

Second, our Spring Fling and Family Picnic will be Thursday, May 15th, at 10:30 a.m. Come and celebrate an exciting and successful year with our students.

Pearl Blair, Director

## Mission



## Discipleship

### Donations Needed

**EGG  
HUNT**

**Prefilled Easter Eggs  
with small toys or  
candy.  
(Please no chocolate)  
Drop off in blue bins by  
April 13th.**





**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](http://Montlure.org)  
\*Grades are for Fall 2025

REGISTRATION: [montlure.org](http://montlure.org)

# TRAVELING DAY CAMP

HOSTED AT:  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH, MESA

FOR CAMPER IN  
1-6TH GRADES  
IN FALL 2025

**JUNE 30 – JULY 4**

**9AM – 3PM\***

**\$50 WITH CODE:  
FPC25**

\* EXTENDED CARE OPTION TO 5PM  
\* HALF DAY ON FRIDAY (12:30PM)

## KITCHEN SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH  
9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM



## April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Lois Oelschlager	2nd
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
Jo Wilson	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Andy Chesko	15th
Kelly Clark	15th
Robert Harding	15th
Ron Payton	15th
Deborah Rosen	16th
Dave Weaver	16th
Dave Frederick	19th
Mary Martin	19th
Don Wilson	19th
Chelsea Cronenberg	29th
Bonnie Seehorn	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.

Christian Johnson: [pastor@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmesa.org)  
 Mark Ramsey: [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org)  
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 Pearl Blair: [preschool@fpcmesa.org](mailto:preschool@fpcmesa.org)  
 Rob Kjar: [business@fpcmesa.org](mailto:business@fpcmesa.org)

## Calendar Notes

### April

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.

### April 2

Journey to the Cross Lenten Service  
Community Dinner

### April 2 & 16

Women's Bible Study

### April 6

Deacons meet

### April 8

Deborah, Rachel & Salome Circles meet

### April 9

Journey to the Cross Lenten Service

### April 12

Kitchen Clean Day  
Artist Series: Jazz Piano Concert

### April 13

Palm Sunday

### April 14

Eve Circle meets

### April 17

Maundy Thursday Service

### April 20

Easter service — in sanctuary and online  
Easter Egg Hunt

### April 26

Southwest Chamber Chorale

### April 27

Potluck Sunday  
Session meets

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

**LA PALABRA**

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