



A Message from Christian

October 2026

Something Is Always in Bloom

*The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper
time.*

*You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

— Psalm 145:15–16

I have now passed through my third summer in the Sonoran Desert, and I am still learning how this place tells the truth about God.

Every month—even in the months when the pavement shimmers and the air itself feels like a warning—something is in bloom somewhere. Not everywhere. Not all at once. But somewhere. A splash of apricot on desert globemallow. The late summer fire of desert honeysuckle. A stubborn little stand of chuparosa offering its red tubes to the hummingbirds that need them. Bees find what they need on plants that look, to eyes still learning this heat, as if they should have given up weeks ago.



Recent photo of a honey bee and hedgehog cactus bloom

One way of looking at this is simply botanical. Another way is thanksgiving. The desert is not empty. It is provisioned. God knows what a hummingbird requires to stay aloft in July. God knows what a bee needs when the washes are dry. “You open your hand,” the psalmist says, “and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” Not on our schedule. At the proper time. That is a word for more than pollinators. It is a word for us.

God knows what we need to survive. Not always what we want stored up against every fear. Often just enough for today—manna in the morning, water from a rock we did not expect, a bloom in a wash we had written off as barren. Some days and some seasons are hard. Grief is hard. Waiting is hard. The stretch between what we have

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left behind and what has not yet arrived is hard. In those stretches it can be difficult to see God's provision at all. The wilderness does not always look like a table.

But the Host is not afraid of wilderness. He is already at work there, opening his hand, working out his purposes when we can name them and when we cannot. The same God who keeps a hummingbird fed in August keeps his people. He has not forgotten what we need.

And here is the holy surprise: we get to be part of that provision. Not as the source of it—God sets the table—but as the ones who bring what we have been given and watch him bless it and break it. A meal. A pledge. A ride to the doctor. A prayer spoken when someone cannot pray for themselves. Bread for the journey, and bread for the neighbor.

How good it is to belong to a church that practices this. We support one another. We help one another. We pray for one another. In a landscape that can look, at first glance, like scarcity, we become signs that the desert still blooms.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom. — Isaiah 35:1

This fall, as we come to the table together—and as we bring what we have—may we do it with open hands and grateful hearts. There is a place for you. There is provision enough. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Christian Johnson

Worship



Mission



Volunteers are needed to help during the festival! Sign-up sheets will be out after church during October. Instead of Trunk or Treat, we will be having a Hall of Tricks in Fellowship Hall. Tables can be decorated in your best spooky Halloween décor! The children will enter at 4:30. The room will be air-conditioned and chairs are available.

The silent auction is in November. Items for the auction can be dropped off after church or on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the church office. If you are donating a large item, let



Gretchen Frederick or Susan Chesko know, and they will use a picture of the item during the bidding, then deliver the item to the winner at the end.



Stewardship

Thank you for your donations to our Capital Projects Campaign for restoration of our Sanctuary. So far we have received \$30,975. When donating, please put "projects" on the memo line of your check. We are off to a great start!

Jan Montgomery,
Ruling Elder for Finance & Treasurer

Spark Presents



Attention FPC members and friends of all ages:
Auditions are open to anyone who is interested in appearing in the production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, The Musical*. If interested, come to the auditions on October 22nd. There is a workshop on October 20th for people who are brand new to theater and want to learn about the audition process. You will learn a dance, song and go over the audition scenes and have a mock audition to help prep for the actual audition. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Monthly Potluck



Fellowship

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

October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Rita Scriba	5th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
David Woods	19th
Philip McGrath	10th
Dan Reeves	23rd
George Montgomery	26th
Diane Brause	27th
Kate McMichael	27th
Janet Verch	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.

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Calendar Notes

October

Worship every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall or online

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

Food donations taken every Sunday

Clothing Closet donations taken every Sunday

Mesa Mercy Market open every Friday
between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

October 3

Freda Homolya Memorial Service

October 4

World Communion Sunday
Joint Worship with GPC @ 10:00 a.m.
Deacons meet

October 7 & 21

Women's Bible Study

October 10

Jo Beth Walstrom Memorial Service

October 11

Pastor Appreciation Sunday
Stewardship Sunday

October 13

Presbyterian Women meet

October 18

Dedication Sunday
Session meets

October 25

Monthly Potluck

October 31

Annual Fall Festival

First Presbyterian Church
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LA PALABRA

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