

A Message from Christian — Reflecting Jesus in Mesa: A Message for July

Dear Members of FPC Mesa,

As we step into the hot days of July here in Mesa, Arizona, I am reminded of an image I captured in the accompanying photograph—a serene view of Papago Rock and the surrounding pools of water. The reflection of the palm trees in the still waters speaks to my theme this month: reflecting Jesus to those around us in our church and community. Just as the water mirrors the trees with clarity, we are called to mirror the love and grace of our Savior in our daily lives.



In John 13:34, Jesus gives us a new commandment: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” This love is not a passive feeling but an active reflection of Christ’s sacrificial love for us. Similarly, 1 John 4:19 reminds us, “We love because he first loved us.” Our ability to reflect Jesus stems from the deep well of His love that first flowed toward us. As we bask in that love, it becomes natural to share it with others—our families, our neighbors, and even strangers we meet along the way.

This week, as the Montlure Traveling Day Camp is underway from June 30 to July 4, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to our incredible church family for embodying this reflection so beautifully. Your generous donations of time, food, and other essential items have ensured that the children and staff have what they need to thrive during this time with us. It’s a testament to the strength of our community and our commitment to being a light in Mesa.

We also reflect Jesus through our ongoing ministries, such as the weekly food pantry and clothing closet. By providing for those in need, we mirror His compassion and care, offering not just physical sustenance but also the warmth of His presence. I encourage each of you to participate in these efforts, whether by donating items, volunteering your time, or simply spreading the word to those who might benefit.

Another exciting opportunity to reflect Jesus awaits us this Wednesday, July 2, with our monthly Community Dinner. As the Day Camp is in full swing, this is a wonderful chance to break bread together and extend hospitality to our neighbors. I warmly invite you to bring a guest—perhaps a friend, coworker, or someone new to our area—to share in this meal. A special treat this time: we will have the privilege of dining with the Montlure Traveling Day Camp counselors, offering a moment to connect, share stories, and reflect Christ’s love together. Let’s make this a night of fellowship and welcome!

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News from the **June 22nd** Session meeting

Clerk's Statistics for **May**

MAY Statistics

Death: RE Dick Baird on May 12th

Membership: 182

May 2025 Avg. Attendance: 89 in-person + 59 online = 148

May 2024 Avg. Attendance: 88 in-person + 73 online = 161

MAY Finance Numbers

Income \$30,284; Expense \$35,999

Year-to-Date Income \$174,813; Expense \$179,512

Year-to-Date Capital Income: \$8,884

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)

Motions approved:

- Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Mission will have a Silent Auction the month of November (plenty of time to find items to be auctioned off)
- The unstable privacy railings in the Sanctuary will be removed over the summer

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

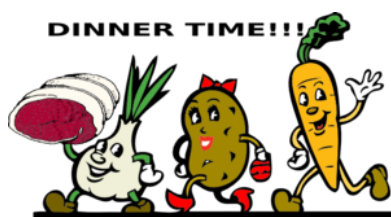
Summer worship is off to a great start! We are adjusting to the new time, and fellowship and refreshments are being enjoyed by the congregation in the more informal setting. The new sermon series on the parables is giving us a challenge in our walk with Christ. We were gifted in June with some special music as well.

Thanks to all who help out on Sunday mornings with video, sound, streaming the broadcast, greeters/ushers, and providing refreshments. Wherever you may be this summer, at home, traveling or sitting in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, let us continue to worship the Lord together!



One Voice singing during worship on June 22nd

Mission



The July community dinner will be on Wednesday, July 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Fried chicken will be served. Please let Susan Chesko know if you are willing to make potato salad, coleslaw, or any other dish that would go with the meal.

The Traveling Day Camp counselors will be joining us for dinner, so we'll need a lot of food that night!

We will again have a silent auction in November as a fundraiser for mission. Start looking for things you might want to have in the auction. Items can be donated during the month of

Continued from Page 1...

Additionally, we have the chance to serve and reflect Jesus at the BBQ on July 4, marking the close of the Montlure Traveling Day Camp. This celebration will be a joyful opportunity to come together, serve one another, and share Christ's love with the camp participants and our community. Your presence and contributions will make this event a memorable reflection of His grace. Let us know in the office if you would like to help.

As we move through July, let's continue to seek opportunities to reflect Jesus. Whether it's through a kind word, a helping hand, volunteering at the pantry or closet, or participating in the Community Dinner and July 4 BBQ, each act of love ripples outward, much like the reflections in the still waters surrounding Papago Rock. Let's pray for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in showing Christ's love in tangible ways.

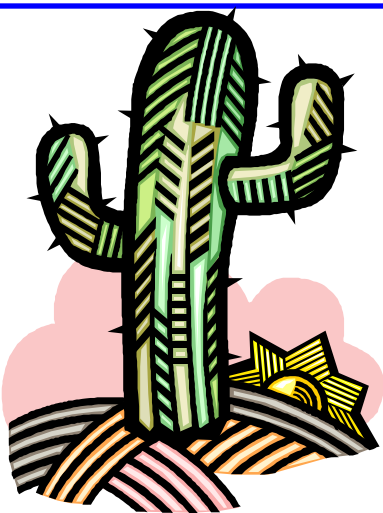
May this month be a time of growth and joy as we reflect Jesus more clearly to those around us. Let's hold fast to His love, which sustains us, and share it generously with our Mesa community.

In His Service,
Pastor Christian



Traveling Day Camp (VBS) will be happening here at FPC Mesa from June 30th through July 4th. You can still volunteer to help out with the camp. Contact Linda Zeiler or the church office. Watch the August La Palabra for lots of great pictures!

The last overnight camp in Greer will be for 4th-6th graders from July 7th through July 11th. Please keep the campers and counselors in your prayers.



Just For Laughs!

As we are in the midst of another Arizona summer, here are some things to think about...

It's so hot in Arizona that...

- You can say 113 degrees without fainting.
- You eat hot chilies to cool your mouth off.
- You learn that a seat belt makes a pretty good branding iron.
- The temperature drops below 95, you feel a bit chilly.
- The 4 seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and ARE YOU KIDDING ME??!!
- You discover that in July, it takes only 2 fingers to drive your car.
- You discover that you can get a sunburn through your car window.
- You notice the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.
- Hot water now comes out of both taps.
- It's noon in July, kids are on summer vacation, and not one person is out on the streets.
- You actually burn your hand opening the car door.
- You break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m. before work.
- No one would dream of putting vinyl upholstery in a car or not having air conditioning.
- Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"
- You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.
- A sad Arizonan once prayed, "I wish it would rain - not so much for me, cuz I've seen it -- but for my 7-year-old."

HAPPY SUMMER!

July Birthdays



Marcy Snitzer	3rd
Tate Posthumus	4th
Kevin Reeves	10th
Virginia Leigh	11th
Jo Throckmorton	13th
Andrew Frederick	17th
Brielle Reeves	17th
Eileen Brause	19th
Ian Harding	19th
Matthew Skarphol	19th
Mary Jean Maedche	22nd
Ben Gerlach	23rd
Tom Watson	25th
Demi McInelly	28th
Jeff Seehorn	30th
Betty Jean Reid-Hoefer	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
 Mark Ramsey: music@fpcmesa.org
 Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
 Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
 Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org

Calendar Notes

July

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 30-July 4

Montlure Traveling Day Camp (VBS) at FPC

July 2

Community Dinner

July 7-11

4th-6th Grades at Montlure

*Not much else.
It's July!*



IN MEMORIAM

Don Anweiler — June 16, 2025



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

LA PALABRA

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First Presbyterian Church
161 North Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201

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, Director of Music Ministries
Chris McKee, Director of Operations
Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper