

A Message from Christian

August 2026

Sabbath Rest: Keeping the Battery Healthy

Dear Friends,

As we move into the dog days of summer, I am preparing to step away for a stretch of vacation with my wife during the last week of July and the first week of August. I am a firm believer that pausing—truly pausing—better prepares me to serve. Rest is not an interruption of ministry; it is part of it.

My son, who works at Tesla, has been talking with me lately about the care of electric car batteries. The ideal is not to run them all the way down. When a battery is repeatedly drained to empty, its long-term capacity and efficiency suffer. Keeping a healthier charge range actually preserves the life and usefulness of the battery. That image has stayed with me.

Scripture has been saying something similar for a very long time. In the creation story, God works for six days and then rests on the seventh—not because God is exhausted, but because rest is woven into the fabric of a good creation (Genesis 2:2–3). The Sabbath commandment later given to Israel is not primarily about restriction; it is about rhythm and trust. “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). The people of God are invited to stop producing, stop striving, and remember that their lives are held by Someone greater than their own effort.

Jesus himself protected this gift. When challenged about the disciples plucking grain on the Sabbath, he replied, “The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). Rest is not a burden laid on us; it is a gift given for our flourishing. It is how we stay useful for the long haul.



Sunset reflected in the Salt River

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I hope these slower summer weeks can become a time of rest and renewal for many of you as well. Whether that looks like a true vacation, a lighter schedule, more time outdoors, or simply permission to say “not today” to one more demand—may we receive the gift of pause. A well-rested people are better prepared to love, serve, and follow Jesus when the pace picks up again.

I am already looking ahead to the fall with real excitement. There are good ministry opportunities on the horizon for our congregation, and I return ready to lean into them with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Christian



Fellowship

Reminder!

There will be no pot-lucks until September 27th. See you then!

Monthly

Potluck



Just a reminder...

A gentle reminder from your Finance Elder, Jan Montgomery: Historically our giving goes down in the summer months but our expenses do not. If it is possible to maintain your giving schedule through the summer it would be greatly appreciated.



FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Recently, someone asked me a History question about the churches we gave birth to. Which ones did we birth? When was it? Who was on Session then? What is their membership now? Actually, I HAVE all that information in my computer. I just have to FIND WHERE I PUT IT!!! While I was looking for it, I came across a document I wrote in September of 2004 entitled "40 Years Ago." Not to bore you with all of that information, I thought I'd summarize it for a look back at FPC Mesa in 1964.

In 1964:

- FPC Mesa was 17 years old (born in 1947).
- Rev. Bill Knobloch was our Pastor.
- Our First Directory was published.
- ELDERS: Dr. Richard Brown, Jim Crosson, Cliff Evans, Al France, Reed Jackson (Darlene Sitzler's father), Mike Madeja, Joy O'Connell, Bob Reichard, Curt Schafer and Steve Wylie.
- DEACONS: Orson Adams, Kathy Bayer, Mary Brown, Nell Evans, John McCormick, Neil Marshall, Mary May, Gertrude Menchio, George Wagner, and Harriette Williams (a Charter Member).
- SANCTUARY CHOIR: William Townsend, Director; Sylvia Praxel, Organist; Arlene Barry, Louise Brown, Betty Duner, Emily Harris, Florence Harry (nickname-Mousie), Howard Kaste, Margo Knobloch, John McCormick, Curt Schafer and Steve Wylie.
- In 1963, with a congregation of 500, the Long-Range Planning Committee had presented a proposal for a new Sanctuary. Curt Schafer was the architect. Bob Evans was chair of the Building Committee and Dries Bosch, Bill Champlin, Joe Woods and Nancy Yarnell were the committee members. A construction budget of \$135,000 was established. Ground-breaking took place on April 17 with Dora Jackson (Native American Charter Member) moving the first shovel of earth. The total building cost including paving, landscaping and pews was \$165,950.
- At 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 13, 1964, the Dedication Service began with Rev. Knobloch knocking on the front doors, which were opened by the Elders and Deacons, signifying the end of years of planning, praying and raising money. Rev. Richard K. Smith, executive secretary of the Arizona Synod (as it was known then) preached the first sermon entitled *Living Under the Star*.
- Members who are still with us: Steve Wylie (7/60), Eileen Brause (9/60), Kay Harding (10/60, left & came back).

I hope you enjoyed this "look back" at FPC Mesa 62 Years Ago!

REACH UP AND OUT IN FAITH AND LOVE
(Mission Statement approved by Session 8/25/2024)

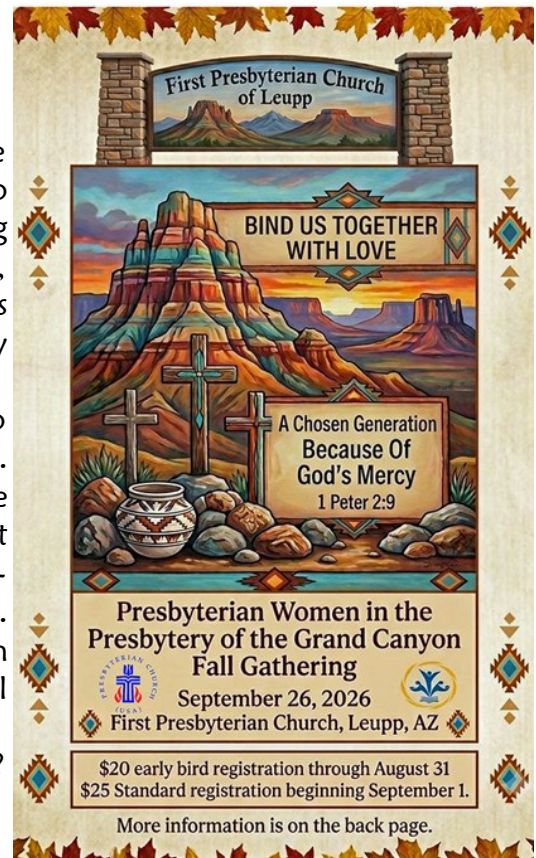
Carol Gerlach, Clerk



You are invited! Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and FPC PW want you to know that all women are invited to the 2026 Fall Gathering in Leupp, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation, September 25-26, 2026. These dedicated sisters consistently attend Gatherings in the Valley, and we are excited to enjoy their hospitality this fall.

A provided charter bus will take the group to Winslow on September 25, where we will spend the night. The bus will then take us to Leupp the next morning to the Gathering. The bus will return attendees to the Valley that evening after the Gathering on the 26th. A \$20 pre-registration is required, which includes lunch and materials. Registration increases to \$25 after September 1. Registration forms are available on the kiosk or by email. An additional expense is for lodging on the 25th at a very reasonable rate.

Seats on the bus are limited! Register now! Questions? Ask Carol Anderson.



FPC PW Bible study and fellowship will resume September 8, 2026, at 11 a.m. in the Parlor. This year's intriguing Bible study is United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other; Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Look forward next month to more information about the Bible study and our PW's revised structure!

Mission

Our November silent auction is just around the corner, and all proceeds go toward our mission work. Start collecting your antique, heirloom and handmade donations now. Gift cards and baskets are always a huge hit! We will be gratefully accepting your donated treasures throughout the month of October. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



The Annual Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 31st from 3:00-6:00 p.m. More info to come!

August Birthdays



Charlotte Roberts	3rd
Todd Verch	6th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ayden Hickey	8th
Mike Chesko	10th
Jo Beth Walstrom	11th
Susan Chesko	14th
Declynn Reeves	19th
Lynette Belew	20th
Robert Gerlach	20th
Tricia MacDonald	25th

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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 480-407-8543

Calendar Notes

August

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.

August 2

Deacons meet

August 15

Laura Bruening Memorial Service

August 16

Session meets

August 22

Presbytery Big Event at Church of the Master

August 23

Movie Lunch Bunch

August 29

Bob Gerlach's 100th Birthday Party!



IN MEMORIAM

Laura Bruening — July 12, 2026



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LA PALABRA

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