

A Message from Christian

September 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

September is here, and with it comes the joy of Kick Off Sunday! This vibrant season of renewal invites us to worship, reconnect, and launch into a new chapter of ministry together. On Kick-Off Sunday, we'll also celebrate a special moment—presenting students of a certain age with their very own Bibles. This is always a happy experience, and we pray these Bibles encourage our young people in the way they should go, so that, as Proverbs says, when they grow up, they shall not depart from it. We're also thrilled to hear Bridget's musical gifts enrich our worship this month, adding beauty to our services.

This month, I'm excited to join our church member, Mike Gerlach, on a mission trip to Honduras with Urban Promise Latin America. I often view mission work in three spheres—local, regional, and international—and this trip embodies the international sphere. We'll collaborate with local communities and the ministry's international board, while Mike utilizes his engineering skills and discovers this impactful ministry. Please keep us in your prayers as we serve and learn together.



From a recent trip down the Salt River

At home, we're launching a new sermon series that will carry us through October, focusing on the Six Great Ends of the Church: proclaiming the gospel, nurturing faith, promoting social righteousness, exhibiting the Kingdom of Heaven, fostering Christian unity, and worshiping God. I've never preached on these from a Biblical perspective, and I'm eager to explore them with you, discovering how Scripture calls us to live out these purposes.

As we step into this season, let's embrace the opportunities to grow, serve, and worship together. From the Bible presentations and music of Kick-Off Sunday to our sermon series and mission efforts, your presence and prayers make a difference. Let's make September a time of joyful renewal and faithful action!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Christian

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FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Session Meeting on August 17, 2025

JUNE AND JULY Statistics

Death: RE Don Anweiler (3342) on June 16th

Membership: 181

June 2025 Avg. Attendance: 71 in-person + 66 online = 137

June 2024 Avg. Attendance: 66 in-person + 63 online = 129

July 2025 Avg. Attendance: 65 in-person + 50 online = 115

July 2024 Avg. Attendance: 62 in-person + 56 online = 118

JUNE AND JULY Finance Numbers

June Income \$35,483; Expense \$39,749

July Income \$35,310; Expense \$42,186

Year-to-Date Income \$245,599; Expense \$261,441

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 12/31/2023 membership of 194

Motions approved:

- Session approved the shared-staff hiring of our new Music Director Bridget Mitchell.

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 in Fellowship Hall was great, but now it's time to move back in to the sanctuary and have more elbow room! We have good things to look forward to in the coming months. Learning from God's Word and Pastor Christian's Sunday messages will help us grow spiritually. And we are excited that Bridget and Mark will be helping us express our love to God through music.

Even though we can't always make it to worship, Rick Hamlin explains why going is good in **"7 Ways Going to Church Can Make You Happier."** A Pew Research Center survey released earlier this year made the discovery that "people who are active in religious congregations tend to be happier and more civically engaged" than people who don't attend or aren't part of any congregation. Here are the reasons: **1) Church is a social network. 2) Church offers support. 3) Church gives you purpose. 4) Church reaffirms healthy habits. 5) Church is a place to sing. 6) Church fosters inner healing. 7) Church can change your point of view.** For the complete explanation, I encourage you to click on the link to the whole story: <https://guideposts.org/positive-living/health-and-wellness/7-ways-church-can-make-you-happier/>

Let's be happier, love greater, and worship the Lord together!

Blessings, Gail



Presbyterian Women of FPC are eager to resume fellowship and Bible study! We are also excited to coordinate and collaborate with Gilbert Pres PW!

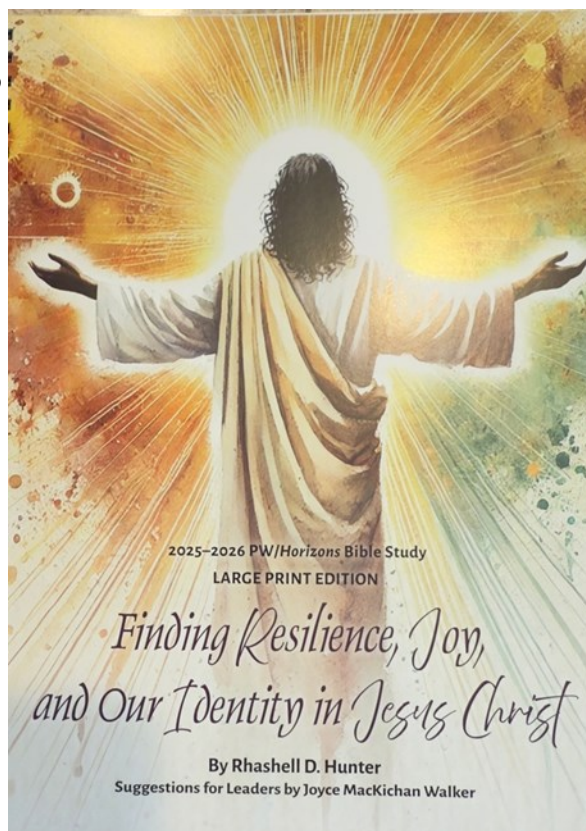
We have a wonderful new Bible Study this year!

Dr. Hunter will be a keynote speaker at our Synod Gathering in October!

Our schedule for the year is consistent, except for joint lunch meetings on second Tuesdays in October, December, and May.

Our regular schedule:

- Eve: Second Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.
- Deborah: Second Tuesday at 9:30 in the Parlor.
- Rachel: Second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.
- Salome: Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in homes, starting in October.
- Gilbert PW: Third Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Palmer Hall.



All women are welcome at any Circle. You are invited!

Mission



The next Community Dinner will be September 3rd at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The Fall festival will be Saturday October 18th. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the mission bulletin board if you would like to help plan that event. Sign-up sheets to help will be out later in September.

The silent auction will be in November. Please bring any donations you have in October to the office or to church each Sunday. The money raised during the silent auction helps us with missions in our community throughout the year.

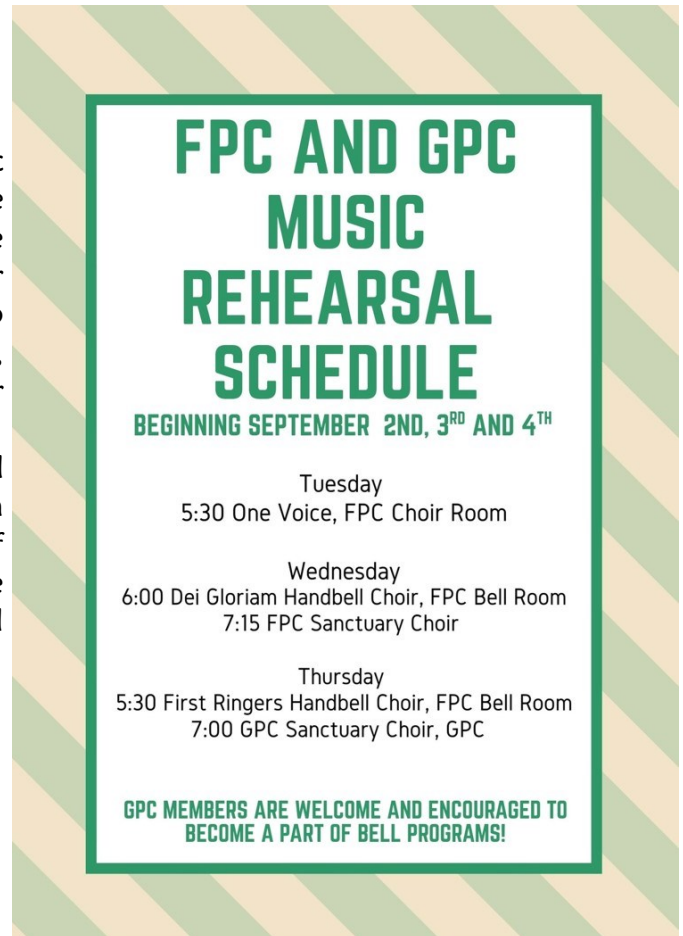
Angel tree will be in December with presents being delivered the Sunday before Christmas.

There is now a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the mission bulletin board for the community dinners in the fall. We need volunteers to sign up and make or buy dinner. Remember you can be reimbursed for any cost of the meal.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Exciting things are happening in music ministry as we prepare to move back to the Sanctuary! Regular music rehearsals will begin the first week of September. See attached image for rehearsal schedule. Music ensembles are open to everyone! If you'd like to join the choir or bells, contact Bridget at musicdirector@fpcmesa.org for more information.

You are also welcome to stop by and observe a rehearsal if you want to learn more! In September, we will hear music in a variety of styles. From Bach to Dottie Rambo, you will see the diverse and adaptable talent of our wonderful musicians.

A poster with a green and yellow striped background. It features a white box with a green border containing the rehearsal schedule. The text is in green and black.

FPC AND GPC MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2ND, 3RD AND 4TH

Tuesday
5:30 One Voice, FPC Choir Room

Wednesday
6:00 Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, FPC Bell Room
7:15 FPC Sanctuary Choir

Thursday
5:30 First Ringers Handbell Choir, FPC Bell Room
7:00 GPC Sanctuary Choir, GPC

**GPC MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO
BECOME A PART OF BELL PROGRAMS!**

A colorful poster for a Fall Festival. It features a scarecrow, corn stalks, and pumpkins. The text is in orange and black.

FALL

festival

**FREE FOOD, GAMES & FUN
TRUNK OR TREAT!
OCTOBER 18, 2025
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PARKING LOT
161 N. MESA DRIVE**

WWW.FPCMESA.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

September Birthdays



Mark Ramsey	3rd
Ron Wright	5th
Diana Johnson	7th
Greg Gerlach	10th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Miki Newbry	16th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Kyle Harding	21st
Rediet Newbry	21st
Sandra Clark	26th
Rylee MacDonald	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Jeanette Chaney	29th
Dion Sanchez	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
 Bridget Mitchell: musicdirector@fpcmesa.org
 Mark Ramsey: music@fpcmesa.org
 Chris McKee: chris@fpcmesa.org
 Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
 Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Gibson, Dale
 6360 E. Rose Circle Drive
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251
 480-407-8543

Calendar Notes

August

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.

September 1

Labor Day — Office closed

September 2

One Voice rehearsals begin

September 3

Community Dinner

Dei Gloriam rehearsals begin

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals begin

September 4

First Ringers rehearsals begin

September 7

Kick-Off Sunday

Deacons meet

September 8 & 9

Circles meet (except Salome)

September 20

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

September 21

Session meets

September 28

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
Mesa, AZ 85201

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Closed Friday

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