

A Message from Christian

May 2025

Dear Beloved Community,

This May, we are invited to embrace a shared staffing relationship with Gilbert Presbyterian Church. Our church's leadership has meticulously crafted a mutually beneficial arrangement that aims to positively impact our broader community. They are now eager to unveil the full details of this collaborative vision, which includes sharing a pastor and participating in worship together on certain occasions. We would love that this partnership could lead to synergistically expanding our ministries both internally and in the wider community.



This partnership embodies the collaborative spirit of the early church as depicted in the Book of Acts. In Acts 4:32-35, believers demonstrated profound unity of purpose by sharing resources so that none were left in need. Similarly, in Acts 11:27-30, the church in Antioch sent aid to the believers in Judea during a famine, showcasing how churches supported one another across distances. Like these early Christians, we have the opportunity to live into a model of unity and shared mission, pooling our gifts to radiate Christ's love more brightly.

Spring time flowers symbolizing new life and possibilities

In the near future, if the path is clear, we anticipate an opportunity for dialogue about this arrangement, allowing us to explore and discern together. Let us approach this step with prayerful consideration, trusting God to guide us toward a vibrant future as his Kingdom continues to expand. May we enthusiastically accept this call to love, serve, and grow more like Jesus.

In Christ's hope,
Pastor Christian Johnson

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News from the **April 27th** Session meeting

Clerk's Statistics for **March**

MARCH Statistics

No weddings, births, baptisms or deaths

Membership: 183

March 2025 Avg. Attendance: 106 in-person + 71 online = 177

March 2024 Avg. Attendance: 118 in-person + 87 online = 205

MARCH Finance Numbers

Income \$38,714; Expense \$37,148

Year-to-Date Income \$99,976; Expense \$108,230

Year-to-Date Capital Income: \$3,344

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)

Session approved a new member who will be welcomed in worship on May 18 – Dion Sanchez

Session approved the Ad-Hoc Committee's Shared Staffing Covenant and called for a Congregational Meeting on May 18 for the congregation's approval of the Covenant and to elect any new officer who accepted a position after the Annual Meeting in February.

When we move to Fellowship Hall for worship (Memorial Day to Labor Day), we are moving the service start time from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

A new wireless alarm system will be installed on the campus.

Etc.

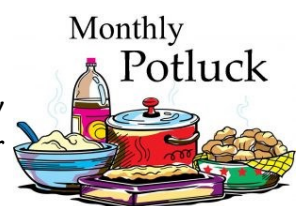
My term as Clerk ends May 31, 2027. I cannot re-up. I'm looking for someone who knows how to take meeting minutes and would like to talk to me about being a Clerk in-training, to contact me. There is more to being Clerk than taking minutes and anyone interested in doing it would need to attend Session meetings well in advance of June, 2027.

REACH UP AND OUT IN FAITH AND LOVE

(Mission Statement approved by Session 8/25/2024)

Fellowship

The Monthly Potlucks will take the summer off due to Sunday worship in Fellowship Hall. The next potluck will be September 28th. See you then!



Worship

The International Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 1st. We'll once again commemorate the day by hosting an Ecumenical Service of Prayer at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to join us for this very special time in the life of our city and church.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th! We'll honor and recognize our mothers, and have a special gift for all women joining us for worship on campus! Join us as we share God's Word and honor the love and joy of Mother's Day.

The annual Preschool Spring Fling (Concert) will be held on Thursday, May 15th, at 10:30 a.m. The fun will begin in Fellowship Hall, followed by a big potluck family-style picnic in the Courtyard. The congregation is invited to attend and join in the fun!

Summer Worship will once again be in Fellowship Hall from Memorial Day (May 25th) through Labor Day (August 31st). **Please make note of this new time! Worship will be at 10:30, with fellowship following.** Join us as our Worship adventure continues, and we explore the ways in which we can praise the Lord and pronounce our faith in Him!



The summer choir schedule is once again rapidly approaching. Copies of the schedule will be available on Sunday, May 18th, in the Church Office, the Choir Room, the Information Kiosk and at fpcmesa.org/planning. We'll enjoy our summer music schedule Memorial Day Sunday, May 25th, through Labor Day Sunday, August 31st!

Important date! Following worship on Sunday, May 18th, there will be a short congregational meeting. The purpose will be to vote on new nominations for church leadership positions, and to vote on a covenant with Gilbert Presbyterian and new terms of call for Pastor Christian.

PER CAPITA

Per capita is the amount of money each Presbyterian Church contributes to the church at large based on its number of members. This year the amount is **\$40.20** for each member of FPC Mesa. These funds are used for the administration of the Presbyterian Church. \$24.36 goes to support the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, \$5.00 for the Synod of the Southwest, and the final \$10.84 for the General Assembly. We ask our congregation to consider making this a separate contribution.

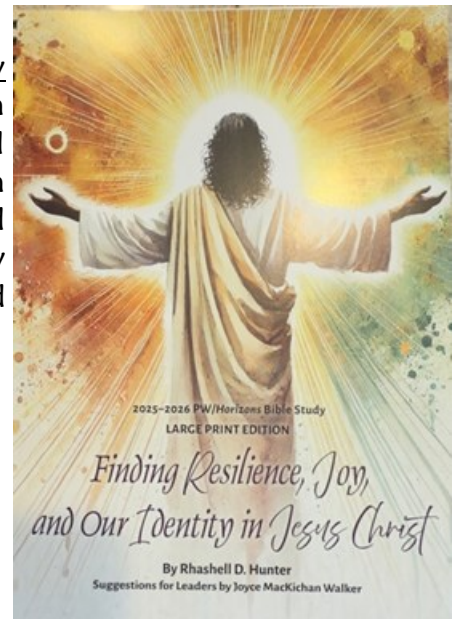
Thank you for your continued support.



Mesa First's PW Circles will celebrate their concluding fellowship of the year with a potluck on Tuesday, May 13th, at 11:00. A short business meeting will follow lunch which will then be followed by a program featuring a talk by a spokesperson from a local domestic violence shelter. Circles will take a summer break and resume in either September or October.

This year's Bible study, Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by Patrician Tull informed us of environmental injustices while presenting ways we can better care for God's creation.

Next year's study, Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ, is authored by Rhashell D. Hunter. We will learn more about resilience through modeling by Jesus and other biblical characters. And we will seek to find joy and rediscover our own identity. It will be an engaging study. All women are invited and encouraged to join us in any of the four Circles: Eve – 2nd Monday at 10:00 a.m.; Deborah – 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.; Rachel – 2nd Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.; and Salome – 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. PW prays that all have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Preschool News

The slide that has been broken most of this school year will be fixed starting May 2nd. A big thanks to Head Start for spearheading the project.

The FPC congregation is cordially invited to our Spring Fling and Family Picnic. It will begin on Thursday, May 15th, at 10:30 a.m. with our end-of-year concert in Fellowship Hall, followed by the potluck/picnic in the Courtyard. Come and celebrate an exciting and successful year with our students.

Our last day of school is May 21st. Hope everyone has a great summer!

Pearl Blair, Director



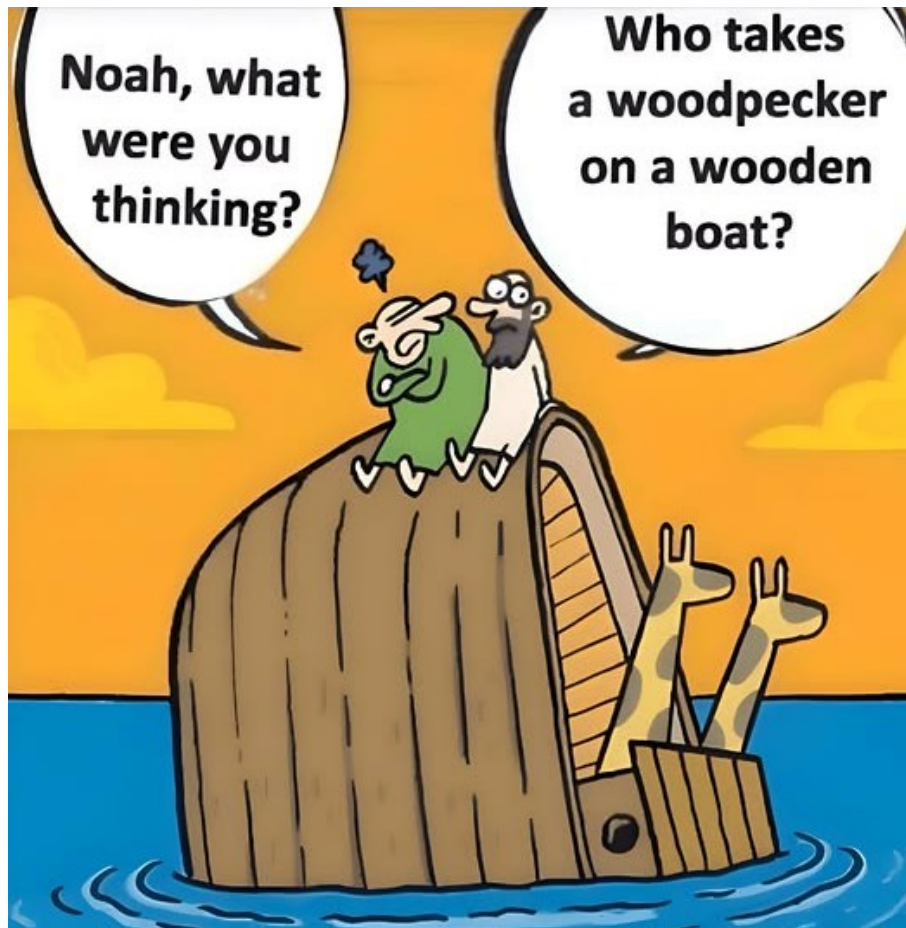
Mission

The May community dinner will be on Wednesday, May 7th, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Beef tacos will be served to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. All are welcome!

A blast from the past...

Humoresque

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing." - Psalm 2:4





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](https://montlure.org)
 *Grades are for Fall 2025

REGISTRATION: montlure.org

TRAVELING DAY CAMP

HOSTED AT:
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, MESA

JUNE 30 –
JULY 4

9AM – 3PM*

FOR CAMPERS IN
1-6TH GRADES
*FALL 2025

\$50 WITH CODE:
FPC25

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

Just for Laughs...

George Phillips, an elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people stealing things from the shed. He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said, "No, but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me." Then the police dispatcher said, "All patrols are busy, you should lock your doors, and an officer will be along when one is available." George said, "Okay." He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago, because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now, because I just shot and killed them both; the dogs are eating them right now," and he hung up. Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed. One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Grace Njoku	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	6th
Everleigh Reeves	8th
Fran Gunter	11th
Karelle Reid-Hoefer	11th
Christina Dzodzomenyo	12th
Suzie Payton	12th
George Wagner	12th
George Haney	13th
Michael McGrath	13th
Sue Eisenklam	16th
Mihret Gerlach	19th
Vivian Buck	23rd
Lynne Harding	24th
Karen Eberhardt	25th
Yvonne Oliver	25th
Maggie Cronenberg	28th
Patricia Wyse	28th

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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Sanchez, Dion & Micka
318 S. Crismon Rd., Lot 73
Mesa, AZ 85208
213-379-6575 (Dion)
818-480-8706 (Micka)

Strouse, Carol
1044 S. Spur St.
Mesa, AZ 85204
480-709-5860

Calendar Notes

May

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.

May 1

National Day of Prayer Service

May 4

Deacons meet

May 7

Women's Bible Study
Community Dinner

May 13

PW Luncheon

May 15

Preschool Spring Fling & Picnic

May 18

Session meets

May 21

Women's Bible Study

May 25

Summer Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. (new time)
in Fellowship Hall

May 26

Memorial Day — Office closed

FPC Staff emails are listed below. Staff cell phone numbers are listed in the church directory.

Christian Johnson: pastor@fpcmesa.org
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Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
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LA PALABRA

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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
Pearl Blair, Preschool Director
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper