



A Message from Christian

July 2026

Reaching Up and Out in the Heat: Summer Reflections on Our Mission and Vision

As the summer heat settles over the Valley of the Sun, many of us find our usual rhythms slowing. The intense temperatures encourage us to seek cooler spaces—whether indoors with family, on a trip to higher elevations, or simply enjoying a quieter pace. This contrasts with my experiences serving in Michigan, where winter often prompted similar hunkering down or escapes to warmer places. In both climates, these seasonal shifts create what I call “liminal time”—sacred in-between seasons that invite reflection and allow ideas to percolate quietly.

This summer offers us a wonderful opportunity to let the Spirit work and to prayerfully consider how we, as First Presbyterian Church of Mesa, can more fully live into the mission and vision God has given us.

Our mission is simple yet profound:

“Reach up and out in faith and love.”

Reaching *up* to God in worship, prayer, and the study of Scripture. Reaching *out* to our neighbors, community, and world with the love of Christ made known in Jesus.

Our vision expands this calling beautifully. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we believe God is leading us to be a **cornerstone for our community**. By 2030, we envision a vibrant, flourishing church where all feel welcome in Jesus’ love; where faith and everyday life intersect with energy and purpose; where children, youth, young adults, and families thrive in faith and discipleship; where we meet the needs of all ages through outreach; where worship is creative and Christ-centered; and where we grow together as lifelong followers of Jesus.

As you rest and recharge this summer, I invite you to consider a few gentle questions:



Saguaros, resilient and enduring, are sustained during the scorching summer by the life-giving waters of the Salt River.

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- How is God inviting me to “reach up” in new or deeper ways this summer?
- Who might God be calling me to “reach out” to in faith and love—perhaps a neighbor, a friend, or someone in need?
- What gifts, passions, or ideas are percolating in me that could help us live more fully into our vision when we launch ministries and programs again in the fall?
- How can we, together, ensure our campus fills with welcoming energy and that we truly become the community God dreams for us?

Our core values—**Worship, Fellowship, Outreach/Evangelism, and Discipleship**—provide a rich framework for this reflection. This is not a season of dormancy but of holy preparation. Just as the desert blooms after the rains, may our time of prayer and pondering prepare us for a Spirit-led fall where we see God’s faithfulness in fresh and exciting ways.

I’d love to hear your thoughts, dreams, and ideas. Share them with me, with our elders, or in your small groups and Bible studies. Together, let’s lean into the mission and vision God has entrusted to us.

May you experience God’s refreshing presence even in the summer heat, and may your days be filled with moments of grace and renewal.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Christian Johnson
 Pastor & Head of Staff

*** Movie Lunch Bunch ***

**Every fourth Sunday
 @ 12:30 p.m.**

**Share food, fun & fellowship!
 Pizza & Snacks for June on us!**

**June 28th – The Computer Wore
 Tennis Shoes**

July 26th – Son of Flubber

August 23rd – The Love Bug

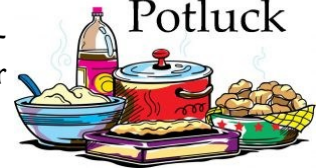
Presented by FPC Fellowship Committee
 First Presbyterian Church
 161 N. Mesa Dr.
 Mesa, AZ 85201

Fellowship

Reminder!

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

Monthly
Potluck





FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Stated Session Meeting June 21, 2026

May STATISTICS

Membership: 146

April 2026 Avg. Attendance: $78 + 65 = 143$

April 2025 Avg. Attendance: $89 + 61 = 150$

MAY FINANCE NUMBERS

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Actual Income \$40,997 | Budgeted Income \$45,396 |
| Actual Expense \$40,795 | Budgeted Expense \$45,396 |
| YTD Actual Income \$196,193 | YTD Budgeted Income \$226,978 |
| YTD Actual Expense \$204,608 | YTD Budgeted Expense \$226,978 |
| YTD Capital Income \$39,149 | YTD Budgeted Capital Income \$18,946 |

2026 Per Capita

\$42.11 per member (based on our 12/31/2024 membership of 182)

(\$25.85 to GC Presbytery, \$5.00 to Synod of the Southwest, \$11.26 for General Assembly).

REPORTS / MOTIONS PASSED

Approved the Minutes of the May Session Meeting.

Annually, at their June meeting, Session re-approves the at-large members of the Finance, Endowment and Personnel committees to serve until they come up again for re-appointment next June. There were no at-large resignations or additions to these committees. Everyone was re-approved.

There were no other motions. And Session's shortest meeting on record came to an end after 40 minutes!!!!

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. There is more to being Clerk than just taking minutes and anyone who is 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

LOTS OF FUN AT MONTLURE
CAMP IN THE CITY AT
MISSION del SOL!



Metropolitan Youth Symphony

This last week, life was humming and strumming at FPC as we hosted the Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS) Summer Camp. Your church campus was buzzing with 144 campers (young musicians from age 11-17), nine staff members, and four volunteers. What a wonderful way for FPC Mesa to create space for these budding musicians and to be a true community partner in the heart of Mesa.



Music Ministries

Hello Friends,

A quick note from the music ministry! I hope everyone is staying as cool as possible. I have now crossed the six month line and have moved into my first summer of worship here at FPC. It has been a joy worshipping with everybody in Fellowship Hall and getting to learn about that experience. The ministry continues to go from strength to strength as the Jazz Band grows in membership, and plans are afoot for an end-of-summer concert in the newly carpeted chapel. Watch for a date to be announced soon.

As I make preparations for the return of our bell choirs and sanctuary choir, we will hopefully welcome some small ensembles from these large groups to service in July and August, which is always an exciting time. We also welcomed some other guests to lead worship last Sunday, and as always they received a very warm welcome from our church.

As I continue to learn the rhythm of our church, we continue to plan for many things to come with our music ministry as we seek to glorify God!

In Him,
Damian



**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.

July Birthdays



| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Marcy Snitzer | 3rd |
| 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 |

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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Linda Reeves: pubs@fpcmesa.org
Rob Kjar: business@fpcmesa.org

Calendar Notes

July

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.

June 28—July 3

Juniors at Montlure

July 4

Happy Independence Day!

July 6

Office closed in observance of Independence Day

July 6—10

Juniors II at Montlure

July 26

Movie Lunch Bunch

*Not much else.
It's July!*



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Mesa, AZ 85201*

LA PALABRA

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