

First Presbyterian NEWS

April 2019

Volume 20 Issue 4

A church like ours cannot function without volunteers. I would try to make a list of all the volunteer functions that happen at First Presbyterian every day here, but Heather only gives me a page of text. So we rely on volunteers to do a lot of the work, but doesn't the Bible tell us that we cannot "work" our way to heaven? The Reformed doctrine of "Sola fide" (in faith alone) says that it is by our faith in the work of Jesus Christ alone that we are saved.

As Presbyterians, we have to realize that we are totally reliant upon Jesus Christ as a church. Whatever good works we do, according to the Apostle Paul, they cannot bring us into a right relationship with Christ Jesus. That is totally reliant upon our faith alone. Paul's epistle to the Romans 5:1-2 (NIV) reads, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

It's Christ who has done all the work, not us. In fact, we can even boast in it. Why, then, does James tell us in pretty stark language in the second chapter of his book, verse twenty, that "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (KJV)?

Well, it's not really an "either-or" question. If you take both of the apostles' words together (and read the rest of Romans, which we did in our Wednesday night Bible Study last year), you find out that good works on their own are not sufficient for salvation, yet they are a good diagnostic tool to see if your faith is alive and indeed relevant. The doctrine states that if you have faith in a risen savior who alone can save you, good works are done by the faithful in gratitude for that salvific work. If you aren't grateful, you definitely won't do good works in Jesus name. But if you have faith, the gratitude will burst forth from us, proving to others that our faith sustains us and causes us to act. A later translation of James' words is this, "You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?" (James 2.20 NIV).

Why do we do good works? We point back to our faith that Jesus has done great things for us. If we aren't doing great works, how great is our faith?

That is why I am so grateful for how many good works to further God's kingdom I see done on a daily basis at First Presbyterian. I see a lot of faith in action at 1st. Pres.

Yet, we hardly ever acknowledge how appreciated is their work.

So, this Wednesday, April 3rd, we will have our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, at 5 p.m. in Room 17. I encourage all volunteers to attend and let us thank you for how much you have done for 1st Pres. It will not be a lot in comparison to what you regularly give in your time and talent to our church, but it is at least our attempt to let you know how appreciated you are and how much we as a congregation and staff are grateful for what you do.

I am personally grateful to be the pastor of a church that has so many who want to show their love of Jesus through their actions, their time, and their love.

Your fellow servant, Paul

April Anniversaries

16. Earl and Vicky Hedrick
19. Don and Marge Shepherd
22. Dave and Caroline Anderson
23. Doug and Darlene Antrobus
27. Dean and Evelyn Haug
28. Bill and Summer Burkert



Next Newsletter Deadline

April 15

April Birthdays

1. Brantley Daughterty
2. Greg Berglund
3. Doug Antrobus
4. Bruce Nyman
5. Alexis Apodaca, Pam Clapp, Bill Reinicke
7. Yolanda Howe
8. Kay Mokma, Josiah Williams
11. Patrica Neal
15. Gerald Jessen
17. Marilyn Hehr, Marge Shepherd
18. Steve Crabb
23. Jean Moffett
24. Charlotte Duckett
26. Aryol Brumley
28. Travis Wolford



Women's Ministry

Spring Luncheon

Date: Saturday, April 6
Time: 11:00 am

First Presbyterian Church
702 E Cottonwood Lane
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
Family Life Center

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Larsen
Best Selling Author, Dramatist & Renowned Speaker

“BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE”

Purchase your ticket today between services at the gazebo or contact Renee Lovell at (252) 567-8072.

Tickets are \$15.00



Caring Ministry

We welcome new members: Mark Braybrooks, John and Marlene Grentzer, Roger and Marlene Jones, Merope Ozdener, Ron and Jan Poe, Noah Rodriguez, Larry and Evelyn Rucas, Nancy Sliver, Dean and Orma Waibel.

If you have medical equipment that is no longer needed and would like to donate it for others to use, we now have storage room available. Please make sure items are cleaned and in good condition. Items such as: wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, crutches, canes, shower chairs, etc. can be loaned out to those in need. If you or someone you know needs one of these items, please contact Bill Heinle in the church office to see if the item you need is available.

Please pray for the following people. If you have updates on their condition, we would truly like to hear how they are doing. Please contact Bill Heinle at 836-5981.

Bob and Bette Beck
Mike Beers
Sherman Bell
Tillie Bott
JD and Cleetis Boyer
Larry Bruckner
Tonya Colett
Gloria Craft
Elmer Cryer
Walt Dahlgren
Emmett Damas

Cindy DeGeest
Faith Ann Farrell
Terry Filloon
Martha Glavin
Joe Horstman
Sally Jahns
Dave Kantrud
Hal Lawson
Cecelia Morris
Randy Neman
Beverly Nichols

Kathy Pinon
Marilyn Powell
Joyce Pretzer
Amy Rowe
Norm Skinner
Ellen Sutton
Heather Thorson
John VanAuken
Everett Waldrop
Frank Westburg

Senior Ministry

The Senior Ministries Team is very excited about all we've been up to and how many people in our awesome church family are enjoying playing with us! The Winterfest was a great evening of dancing, dinner, and door prizes. The Caywood Farms tour had 25 of us riding in a hay wagon and thinking about planting our cotton seeds in our own backyards. We learned about successful marriages in the Wedded Bliss Game. 20 of us bundled up and learned about Casa Grande history as we walked with the folks who lived it. We are excited to keep gathering and growing together.

Coming Up:

1. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner April 3 at 5:00 pm in Room 17. Instead of our usual potluck, we will be providing a meal to thank you for your current, past, or future efforts to be the hands and feet of God at FPC. Please come and let us and our pastors cheer you on!
2. Walking Group will continue on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7:30—9:30 am. No bugs, no dogs, no nosy neighbors, no judgment! We offer friendship, support, ice water, easy access to bathrooms, and air conditioning. Come get stronger and feel better.
3. Learn to make pasta! It's so much easier than you think and very satisfying. We may also teach you a sauce or two and send you home with dinner already prepared. Karen Lloyd and Elizabeth Elgin will be teaching the second cooking class in the kitchen on April 11 at 2:00 pm. Sign up early because this class is filling up fast and spaces are very limited.

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact a member of the Senior Ministries Team. We have information, enthusiasm, and hope to share and grow with you!



Worship

We pray that our worship services have supported you in your Lenten journey. In a few weeks, we'll proclaim, He is risen! Alleluia! But before we celebrate the triumph of Jesus' resurrection (His victory over sin), we'll remember the agony of His crucifixion. Please continue to journey with us.

On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with commemorative palm crosses. ***"Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*** Matthew 21:9. On Easter Sunday, we joyfully proclaim, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Yes, He is risen. This is the essence of Christianity. Roman's 10:8 tells us that **"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** God blessed us with His Son and has shown us the path. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son...."** John 3:16. He saved us. Titus 3:5 says: **"God our Savior saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."** We are truly blessed.

Like Christmas, Easter is a very special time for Christians to worship our Lord. More people come to worship on Easter than any time of the year. We close the Lenten season and begin the celebration of Holy week with Palm Sunday, then to our special and spiritually moving Maundy Thursday. Please join us at this evening service, which beautifully commemorates Jesus' passion and sacrificial death. Finally, we celebrate the culmination of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. We will have Easter Sunrise service in Peart Park followed by our normal service times at 8:30 & 10:00 in the sanctuary and 11:00 in the FLC.

Kids see Easter Sunday as another candy day where the Easter Bunny comes and fills their Easter baskets. We remember that Easter is more than just candy and chocolate bunnies. Easter is the celebration of the anniversary of Jesus' resurrection. Easter does mean something more, something special, something more special, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is truly **RESURRECTION SUNDAY**.

1 Cor. 15:3-8 **"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to scriptures."**

He is Risen.

HE IS RISEN, INDEED!

Blessings from your Worship Team

Women's Bible Study

On April 3, at 10:00 am in Room 17, Women's Bible Study will be starting a new study entitled *Made to Crave, satisfying your deepest desire with God, not Food* by Lysa Terkeurst.

Even if food is not your issue, Lysa's teaching will help all who have something keeping them from a closer relationship with God.

Contact Donita Godwin for more information.

Missions



WANTED

If anyone took pictures the night of the spaghetti dinner of Rinaldo, his pianist, or Kim's string ensemble please contact Mary Ann Brady or send photos to tmb@copper.net or 520-280-8250. Thanks.

Love one another is a command and we do that here at First Presbyterian. Mission work is daily. When there is a need, we remember that WE ARE the Hands and Feet of Jesus.

Yarn! Fleece fabric! Several ladies knit or crochet 12" squares which are then pieced together to make blankets. We bring yard after yard after yard of fleece. The fleece is cut into different sizes, holes are punched around the edge, and then we crochet an edging. Beautiful. The blankets are given to the homeless, the abused, foster children, veterans, etc. Most Saturday mornings you will find us at yard sales looking to buy blankets, scarves, and hats at a bargain price. Do you have skeins of yarn stashed away? Well, get it out and knit some 12" squares for blankets or donate the yarn to missions and we will do it.

Summer is fast approaching so as you travel collect soaps, shampoos, etc. from motels/hotels. Donate them to missions. We will hand them out to the homeless.

Shield a Badge. They protect us. Don't forget to pray for your badge number(s) today and every day. 24/7. If you would like to send a card to the Casa Grande Police Officer you are praying for, you may do so by addressing it to:

Badge # _____
C/O Dr. Bob Cornelius, Chaplain
373 E Val Vista Blvd
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Just a few weeks ago we learned that the Casa Grande Police Department has a need for hygiene items. Our speaker said these products will be used to help someone who has been injured in some way. We are hoping to fill that need.

Some on our mentoring team drive children to and from school. They help the caregivers who are raising these children. Some children go to Youth Haven Ranch Camp in Picacho. Camp is free and volunteers drive them there and back.

April 2—Arizona Gives Day! Let's help Seeds of Hope win first place again. Donate on April 2 (24 hours only) and help support SOH. Together we can do this.

Your mission team covets your prayers.



Seeds of Hope

Tuesday April 2nd 2019 is Arizona's Gives Day. We have had great support and success these past few years and with your help we will have it again! This has become our most successful vehicle in gathering support for SOH. Please share with all of your family and friends! We invite you to join us at Chick-fill-a from 4pm to 9pm that night as we eagerly watch the totals come in.

With the help of many volunteers including 12 from AmeriCorps we finally have the garden going!! Our first crop of corn and tomatoes was planted the week of March 11th. If any of you like to work with wood, we plan on putting the pergola kit together the first part of April.

Thursday May 2nd we will be gathering together in the FLC for the National Day (Night) of Prayer Observance. Look for more details in the bulletin and on the loop.

For more information on these events or on any of our ministry's follow us on facebook, our website www.seedsofhopeaz.com or call our office at 836-6335.

Blessings to All,
Mark

Session Notes

Fifth Sunday offering in March will go to Seeds of Hope.

Elder Retreat with Brad Monroe will be March 23 in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Saturday, March 16, was the Jim Sorensen Piano Concert.

Denny Honodel, Larry Pazier, and Peter Vogel were commissioned to attend the April 6 Presbytery Meeting.

Elder Pazier discussed hearing-impaired sound system.

No refreshments will be served at the Easter Sunrise Service.

Elder Vanderheyden indicated new signs will reflect the name change to First Presbyterian Church Contemporary Service.

A new process of serving communion will be reviewed.

Paving of the parking lot will begin soon.

Next Stated Session Meeting will be March 28, 2019, at 5:30 pm in Room 17.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Svedjan, Clerk of Session

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> 7:30 Walking Group 1:00 Senior Ministry Games 6:00 Seeds of Hope Board	<u>2</u> 10:15 Senior Ministry Team 10:15 Music Rehearsal 3:30 Worship Committee 4:30 Praise Team	<u>3</u> 7:30 Walking Group 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	<u>4</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship	<u>5</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA 5:00 Mentoring Committee	<u>6</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>7</u> 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship	<u>8</u> 7:30 Walking Group 1:00 Senior Ministry Games	<u>9</u> 10:15 Music Rehearsal 4:30 Praise Team	<u>10</u> 7:30 Walking Group 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:45 Fellowship 6:15 Adult Bible Study	<u>11</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 2:00 Cooking Class 4:15 pm Deacons	<u>12</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA 6:30 Godwin Grace Group	<u>13</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:30 Montlure Board 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>14</u> 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship	<u>15</u> 7:30 Walking Group 10:30 Mariposa 1:00 Senior Ministry Games 5:00 Missions Committee	<u>16</u> 10:00 Women's Ministry 10:15 Music Rehearsal 4:30 Praise Team	<u>17</u> 7:30 Walking Group 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:45 Fellowship 6:15 Adult Bible Study	<u>18</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 3:00 Memorial Committee 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	<u>19</u> 6:00 am—6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>20</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 9:30 Kairos 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>21</u> 6:00 Sunrise Service at Peart Park 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship	<u>22</u> 7:30 Walking Group 1:00 Senior Ministry Games	<u>23</u> 10:15 Music Rehearsal 4:30 Praise Team	<u>24</u> 7:30 Walking Group 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:45 Fellowship 6:15 Adult Bible Study	<u>25</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 3:00 Early Bird Buffet @ Golden Corral 4:30 Stephen Min 5:30 Session	<u>26</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA 6:30 Godwin Grace Group	<u>27</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>28</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Congregational Meeting 10:00 Worship 11:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship	<u>29</u> 7:30 Walking Group 1:00 Senior Ministry Games	<u>30</u>				



Easter Sunday Schedule

6:00 am Sunrise Service at Peart Park

8:30 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:00 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Contemporary Worship in the FLC

Vision Statement:

Belong to God and to each other

Believe God's word

Be more like Christ

How To Reach Us

Phone: (520) 836-5981

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)

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Session

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Karen Vanderheyden (Contemp. Worship)	van.karen16@gmail.com
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Treasurer: Gary Ellis

Clerk of Session: Kay Svedjan

Deacon Parish Assignments

Judy Kitching	Moderator
Terry Sullivan	A-Bo
Jim & Bobbi Antholz	Br-Coo
Larry & Jackie Shinn	Cop-Et
Doug & Darlene Antrobus	Ev-Gre
Ken & Judy Davenport	Gri-Jac
Richard & Peggy White	Jah-La
Kitty Bertness	Le-Mod
Marcey Honodel	Moe-Pic
DeeLane Heinle	PI-Sch
Renee Lovell	Scl-Thu
Bill & Summer Burkert	Tow-Z

Ministry Connection

Accompanist	Ginny Lewis
Bell Choir	Kim Freyermuth, Susan Quintanar
Chancel Choir/Acquire	June Graber
Custodian	Harold Lovell
Funeral Director	Mary Lu Brooks
Nursery Attendants	Jasmin Diaz Geovani Hernandez
Office Manager	Heather McNutt
Organist	Jane Ethington
Pastor	Rev. Paul Elgin
Pastor of Caring Min.	Bill Heinle
Seeds of Hope	Mark Vanderheyden
Senior Ministry	Elizabeth Elgin
Sexton	Pete Vogel
Stephen Ministry	Bill Heinle
Trad'l Worship Music	Roberta Doerges
Women's Bible Study	Donita Godwin
Women's Ministry	Renee Lovell
Youth Director	Kylie Powell