

First Presbyterian NEWS

June/July 2020

Volume 21 Issues 6/7

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Stand at the gate of the Lord's house and there proclaim this message:

"Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord." Jeremiah 7.1-2

It is our natural desire to hear the Word proclaimed corporately – together - yet the nature of our world has prevented that for two months. The words of Jeremiah are calling us to come through the gates and worship the Lord in his house. Yet our circumstances are unique to our nation and our community in this time and place.

Your Session met on May 21 with the purpose of determining when 1 Presbyterian will re-open its doors to corporate worship. It was decided that June 7 would be a good time, and would allow us to review the progress of the health picture in Casa Grande before re-opening happens.



The main concern of the Session was our older demographic and the endangered nature of a lot of our congregation to the coronavirus. A date of June 7 would allow us to observe two weeks of "partial re-opening" in our community. A conference call meeting for the Session on Monday, June 1 will allow for final approval of the services on June 7 at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 10:30 in the Family Life Center. The office will be open beginning Tuesday the 26 of May (the day after Memorial Day), usually Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. Heather will still be socially distancing, though, so please only come for vital or necessary business that cannot happen online. The pastors will be available by appointment.

Things will be different, of course. The Sanctuary will be configured for only 59 attendants due to social distancing. More space is available in the Family Life Center. You will receive a letter via hard copy and email the first week of June asking for RSVP's for that 9 a.m. service so we don't try to put too many people into too small of a space. It will also alert you if there is a change in these plans due to late breaking news. We will also be asking for the number of people you will be attending with so we can utilize every available seat (six feet away from other open seats).

You might see a camera visible as we continue our online ministry for those not able or desiring to attend in person. We will ask all attendees to wear masks. We won't pass the peace or take communion. There will be no bulletins to share, although there will be a virtual, online bulletin emailed to you Sunday morning or Saturday evening. The Sanctuary and Family Life Center are both fully equipped with WI-FI so you can access them. We will not take an offering, although baskets will be available at the exits for you to leave your donations, which of course are needed now more than at any other time.

The new normal will probably be anything but normal. What will be the same is our fervent desire to share the love of Jesus Christ to all around us.

There is one more thing the Session wanted to share with you. Please use your best judgment on when you will personally be able to return to worship. Many in our church are in an "endangered" category due to ill health, age, or other reasons. Please do not feel an "obligation" to attend services just because they are being offered.

As Americans, we all share a deep seated nature of individuality and self reliance. Let's use our love for each other and the desire to keep each other healthy as our guidelines for returning to worship, wearing a mask, and washing our hands.

I love each of you with the love of Jesus Christ. Please be well.

Anniversaries

June

1. Church and Pam Walton
2. Donnie and Sandee Rugg
3. John and Candy Burtis
4. Gene and Linda Irvin
5. Richard and Kathleen Burson
9. Dick and Barb Bradley
9. Edwin and Jennifer Burnett
9. Jack, Jr. and Dorothy Jean Foster
12. Phil and Cathleen Rafferty
16. Mark and Karen Vanderheyden
17. Gary and Cindy Ellis
24. Ray and Melissa Williams
30. Paul and Emma Banwart

July

6. Jose and Jill Salazar
11. Scott and Heather McNutt
13. George and Mary Jane Nichols
14. John and Ruth Van Auken
24. Dick and Sheron Hoort
28. Jerry and Ida Storey



Birthdays

June

1. Ronny Douglass
1. Dolores Hadley
3. Denny Honodel
3. Evelyn Rucas
4. Jean Knuth
6. Norma Bertsch
6. James Morphew
7. Paul Banwart
10. J.D. Boyer
10. Marge Brachett
11. Karen Morphew
13. Merope Ozdener
16. Eric Bertness
16. Judy Davenport
17. Ruby Lerfald
18. Arvin Van Ry
19. Linda Irvin
22. John Van Auken
26. Emma Banwart
30. June Modlin



July

1. Roger Jones
4. Bailey Dannemiller
4. Ruth Van Auken
5. Karen Persico
6. Robert Baer
6. Cindy Schaider
8. Summer Burkert
8. Ariannah Williams
9. Jim Antholz
11. John Burtis
11. Kay Svedjan
12. Marlene Jones
15. Linda Garrett
15. Bruce Martin
15. Phyllis Wells
16. Allan Lerfald
18. Merline Self
20. Taylor McNutt
21. Dick Lloyd
22. James Pickett
23. Mary Lu Brooks
24. Larry Pazier
24. Tom Scarborough
24. Donna Sutter
25. Ronald Poe
26. Richard Burson
28. Janet Henness
28. Marcey Honodel
29. Alvin Holst
30. Lois DeGeest
31. Janet Woolfitt

Church History

On May 3, 2021, we will reach a milestone. First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande will be 125 years old! Leading up to that event, we will offer biographical sketches of the pastors who have served FPC over that period.

Rev Herman Bozeman Mayo 1899-1901



*Casa Grande Ruins
c. 1902*

On October 2, 1899, Rev. Herman B. Mayo replaced Isaac Whittemore as caretaker of the Casa Grande Ruins and became the pastor in Florence and Casa Grande that same year. Mayo was born December 23, 1869 in MacArthur, Ohio and ordained June 12, 1896, a graduate of Auburn Seminary. In April of 1900, Rev. Mayo was called upon to hold funeral services for a prominent Casa Grande citizen, Christian Loss, who died unexpectedly at the age of 45 years. Rev. Mayo would preach morning and evening services in Florence the second and fourth Sunday of the month and every alternate Sunday at Casa Grande and Arizola. He also did evangelistic work as far away as the mining communities Kelvin and Riverside. It was during his tenure that the church building in Casa Grande was constructed from material from an icehouse that was dismantled in Florence. In March of 1900, Rev Mayo oversaw the purchase of furnishings for the new church building. In 1901, Rev. H B Mayo leaves the service of the Casa Grande church. Reverend and Mrs. Mayo moved from Florence to Peoria, AZ, to serve First Presbyterian Church there. He served there until June of 1902. He would later move on to Alva, Oklahoma (1904-1910), Santa Cruz, CA (1913-1915) and Beloit, and Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. He died from complications from burns he received in a fire in Columbus, Kansas March 24, 1952 at the age of 82. He is buried in Park Cemetery, Columbus, Kansas.

Rev Benjamin Cory Meeker 1902-1904

Rev. Benjamin Cory Meeker arrives in April 1902 from Clifton, AZ., to pastor the Florence and Casa Grande churches. He was born in Cranford, New Jersey, October 4, 1842 to Jonathan Meeker and Phebe Campbell Mulford, and was ordained September 29, 1868. He was a graduate of Princeton University and studied for Presbyterian ministry at Princeton Seminary. He was married to Laura Livingston Scudder, October 7, 1868 in Laurenceville, N.J., the same year he took his first charge at Tamaqua, PA. He served that church from 1868 to 1884. In 1884 he served as stated supply pastor for churches in Council Grove, Leroy, and Big Creek, Kansas. From 1884-1886 Rev Meeker was stated supply for White City, Parkersville, Wilsie and Morris, Kansas. He was pastor of the Eureka, Kansas church from 1886 to 1889. He served as stated supply in Las Cruces and Silver City, NM 1892-93, El Paso, TX in 1893 and San Leandro, CA from 1893 to 1894. Again, serving in Las Cruces 1894-98. In 1900 he helped bring a new church building from Tombstone to Clifton where he also served Morenci and Metcalf from 1898 to 1901. An article from the Tombstone Weekly Epitaph (Sunday, March 18, 1900) states, "The Presbyterian church in Clifton was dedicated last Sunday. The building, a substantial and commodious one, was removed from Tombstone where it was erected in the palmy days of that town. The Clifton church is now supplied with a nice carpet \$125 organ, pulpit and pulpit chair, and 107 chairs. Rev BC Meeker, the pastor of the church, deserves credit for his energy in pushing this church, and the good people of Clifton deserve praise for their liberality in providing the necessary means for its completion." Rev. Meeker was very active in the greater church by serving on committees at the presbytery and synod level. In 1903 Rev BC Meeker was elected to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly. In February 1904, Meeker left Casa Grande for Dexter, Hagerman, and Lake Arthur, New Mexico. In 1912 he helped plant a church in Rincon, NM. He wound up in Emporia, Kansas where he died September 28, 1924 and was laid to rest in Maplewood Memorial Lawn Cemetery. Rev and Mrs. Meeker had six children Benjamin, John, William, Mary, Olinda and Susan. John and William also became pastors.



Worship

By the Numbers

I love the shirts we have that say “The Church Has Left The Building”because we have.

I am hopeful that by the time this newsletter goes out we will once again have worship of some form in either the Sanctuary or FLC. Having said that, we have a great following thru Facebook and YouTube.

By the Numbers.....We started the online Worship Service Videos on 03-22-20, the numbers include Facebook and YouTube viewership. These numbers are “as of 05-13-20” as people can still go to the church Facebook page and watch any previous service....so the numbers can change and go up.

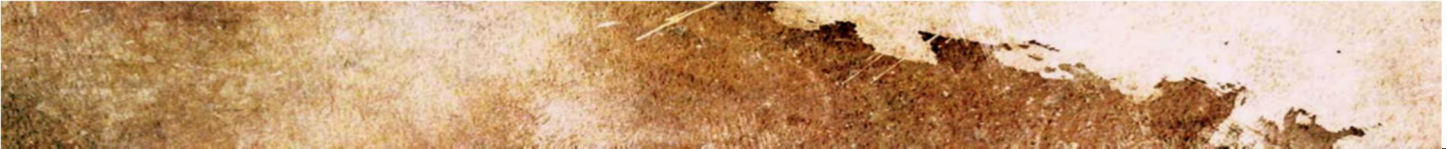
	Facebook and YouTube Viewers	2019 Attendance
03-22-20	198*	273
03-29-20	<u>294</u>	<u>275</u>
Total	492	548
04-05-20 Palm Sunday	432	268
04-09-20 Maundy Thurs.	236	95
04-12-20 Easter Sunrise	299	52
04-12-20 Easter	389	272
04-19-20	266	310
04-26-20	<u>254</u>	<u>199</u>
Total	1,876	1,196
05-03-20	189	196
05-10-20	105	181
05-17-20		215
05-24-20		186
05-31-20	<u>000</u>	<u>000</u>
	294	778

198* this number represents viewership for Sunday and the Monday re-showing of Sunday’s service as there were some glitches that needed to be worked out.

Our Daily Devotion Viewership since March 18 has been steadily climbing, with the single day high of 307 viewers and low of 52 viewers and the average for March being 152 per day, April being 154 per day, and so far in May being 123 (but I expect May’s numbers to go up).

We have a wonderful church family that is still very active and practicing social distancing.

Blessings,
Travis



Missions and Outreach

Our shoe project was a great success due to your help and participation. We collected 2,725 pairs of gently worn and new shoes. After the shoes are picked up on May 23, we will receive a check from Funds2Orgs which we will share with Cottonwood School in appreciation for their contributions.

On May 12, we completed another session of Laundry Love. We provided coins and soap for approximately 30 loads of laundry for 6 families. Water bottles, juices boxes, peanut butter crackers, and other snacks were available for the participants.

We are still planning to prepare hygiene bags for the homeless and needy. We will provide bags and a list of suggested items to be included and returned to the church. Everyone seemed to enjoy sharing in this mission project last year and we know there is a definite need.

The mission team wishes to thank each and everyone who has supported our mission work.

This summer - REST - RELAX - STAY COOL - STAY SAFE -BE WELL. Most of all PRAY!

We are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

July 15

Please submit typewritten articles to the church office
or to fpccasagrande@gmail.com.

June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 WW 10:00 AA 4:30 WW	<u>2</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 3:30 Worship Team	<u>3</u> 6:45 AA 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Seeds of Hope Board Meeting	<u>4</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Men's Fellowship	<u>5</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>6</u> 6:45 AA 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>7</u> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>8</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 WW 10:00 AA 4:30 WW	<u>9</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 3:30 Praise Team	<u>10</u> 6:45 AA 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>11</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Men's Fellowship 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> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>15</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 WW 10:00 AA 4:00 Missions Team 4:30 WW	<u>16</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 3:30 Praise Team	<u>17</u> 6:45 AA 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>18</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Men's Fellowship 1:00 Adamavich Grace Group	<u>19</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>20</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Eye Openers Business Meeting 9:30 Kairos 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>21</u> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>22</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 WW 10:00 AA 4:30 WW	<u>23</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 3:30 Praise Team	<u>24</u> 6:45 AA 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>25</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Men's Fellowship 3:00 Early Bird Dinner Buffet (Golden Corral) 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> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>29</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 WW 10:00 AA 4:30 WW	<u>30</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 3:30 Praise Team				

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>1</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Seeds of Hope Board Meeting	<u>2</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 1:00 Adamavich Grace Group	<u>3</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>4</u> 6:45 AA 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>5</u> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>6</u> 9:00 WW 4:30 WW	<u>7</u> 9:00 Staff Meeting 3:30 Praise Team	<u>8</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>9</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 4:15 pm Deacons	<u>10</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA 6:30 Godwin Grace Group	<u>11</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:30 Montlure Board 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>12</u> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>13</u> 9:00 WW 4:30 WW	<u>14</u> 9:00 Staff Meeting 3:30 Praise Team	<u>15</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>16</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 1:00 Adamavich Grace Group	<u>17</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>18</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:00 Eye Openers Business Meeting 9:30 Kairos 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>19</u> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>20</u> 9:00 WW 4:00 Missions Team 4:30 WW	<u>21</u> 9:00 Staff Meeting 3:30 Praise Team	<u>22</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>23</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 3:00 Early Bird Dinner Buffet (Golden Corral) 5:30 Session	<u>24</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA 6:30 Godwin Grace Group	<u>25</u> 6:45 AA 2:00 Jean Moffett Memorial Service 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>26</u> 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	<u>27</u> 9:00 WW 4:30 WW	<u>28</u> 6:45 AA 9:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 3:30 Praise Team	<u>29</u> 6:45 AA 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>30</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Men's Fellowship	<u>31</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Bette Jean Beck. Bette passed away on May 8.

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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www.firstpresbyteriancasagrande.com

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianCG)

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Session

Jim Antholz (Properties)

Eric Bertness (Finance)

Travis Bott (Worship)

Vicki Cooper (Missions)

Jean Gomez (Christian Education)

Lester Hehr (Finance)

Marge Jantz (Congregational Life)

Larry Rucas (Finance)

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Treasurer: Gary Ellis

Clerk of Session: Kay Svedjan

Deacon Parish Assignments

Betty Silguero

Anne Collis

Evelyn Rucas (Meals)

Jim & Karen Morphew

Pam Walton

Cathleen Rafferty (Awareness)

Sandy Morin

Dick & Barb Bradley

Mary Jane Nichols

Ron & Jan Poe

Barb Hogsett

John & Marlene Grentzer (Guest Services)

A-Bot

Bou-Cla

Cle-El

Et-Gra

Gre-Hog

Hol-K

L-Man

Mar-Ol

Or-Rem

Ric-Sl

Sm-T

V-Z

Vision Statement:

Belong to God and to each other

Believe God's word

Be more like Christ

Build a better community

Ministry Connection

Ministers: Whole Congregation

Associate Pastor Bill Heinle

Bell Choir Kim Freyermuth,
Susan Quintanar

Chancel Choir June Graber

Choir Accompanist Kim Freyermuth

Custodian Harold Lovell

Grace Groups Carol Adamavich
Linda Irvin

Kitchen Ministry Karen Lloyd

Memorial Committee Marcey Honodel

Men's Ministry Rev. Paul Elgin

Nursery Attendants Jasmin Diaz

Alison Gomez

Office Manager Heather McNutt

Organist Jane Ethington

Pastor Rev. Paul Elgin

Seeds of Hope Mark Vanderheyden

Sexton Pete Vogel

Special Events Coord. Renee Lovell

Stephen Ministry Bill Heinle

Women's Bible Study Donita Godwin

Women's Ministry Renee Lovell