

FOUNTAIN HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN TOUCH

Fountain Hills, AZ

December 2022



FHPC VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision: To be missionaries bearing the Gospel into the world.

Calls us to...

Our Mission: Growing as devoted followers of Jesus Christ by making disciples for our Lord and Savior.

Rev. August 25, 2020

Pastor Bill Good



Choosing Christmas Again

Matthew, Luke, and John all begin patiently. One gives us the lineage of Jesus. One tells us about Jesus' aunt and uncle. One plunges us into the great mysteries of time and being. Groundwork is laid. A story takes shape.

Mark, though, has no time for such things. We hear him shout out the sheer joy of it: "*The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*" He's a kid at Christmas: so busy tearing the wrapping off of a new reality he can't even be bothered to put a verb in his sentence.

Mark dropped his "good news" into a world gone numb and dark. Political oppression, religious opposition, social violence, cultural indifference, and economic suppression terrorized the times. Hope seemed hopeless – the figment of ancient dreamers. That's what makes Mark's news so exciting. And in the face of all this, the boldness of his proclamation divided hearers along clear lines. It forced a choice: cynicism or celebration? capitulation or. . . *Christmas?*

Some say now – as some did then – that this good news was just a magical tale, that Christmas is a mere fable born of wishful dreams. In face of all this, Christians are still called to choose – to choose the story that will give shape to their seeing and being.

The facts are these:

- Yes, it's a holiday wrapped in folklore – lowing cattle, straw-filled mangers, and – wonder of all wonders – a silent baby.
- But on a far more truthful level, it's also an epiphany swathed in mystery and wonder, awe and grace, and the love and promise of God.

And there's this to think about:

- Yes, *time* has passed, but *times* remain disappointingly unmoved.
- But, Mark said clearly that his was just the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

This Advent Season, once more, the choice is before us: we can choose to join a world that continues to shrink in post-pandemic lethargy, or we can choose to join Mark in his broadening exuberance and tear open the wrapping of new life.

You see, if Mark's was just the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, then there's still more to come. And, who knows, maybe the advent of that good news that's yet emerging requires nothing more than *you and me and him and her*. . . singing, and praying, and embracing, and hoping. . . and **choosing Christmas**. Again.

Come. Let us adore him,

Bm

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Christmas Eve December 24 5:30 PM

Christmas Day December 25 10:00 AM

Memories & Hopes: New Years Day January 1 10:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC 26 & JAN 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Bill Good
Pastor/Head of Staff

Marta Ludwig
Administrative Coordinator

Debbie Fisher
Director of Music Ministry

Dorothy Parris
Pianist

Frank DeGroot
Custodian

Contact Church Staff

<https://www.fhpresbyterian.info/our-staff/>

CHURCH TREASURER

Linda Lull

For More Details

<https://www.fhpresbyterian.info/elders-deacons/>

CHURCH SESSION

Clerk of Session

Jack Reynolds

Class of 2022

Maria Berry— Finance

Interim Hospitality

John Scaggs-Communications

Class of 2023

Kathy Cole— Communications

Terri Schmidt—Missions

Interim Christian Formation

Class of 2024

Ilene Berg—Worship & Music

Larry Cole—Bldg & Grounds

Arlene Stewart—Administration

Stewardship

Contact Session

www.fhpresbyterian.info/session-mailbox

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Phil Katz

Class of 2022

Leslie Hermansen

Matt Jefferson

Dawn Lau

Jim Stewart

Class of 2023

Linda Kester

Mary Lee Lehigh

Tyson Robinson

Bob & Susan Titus

Class of 2024

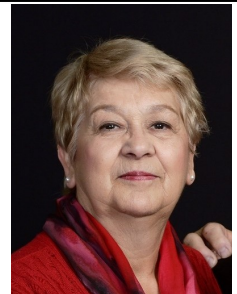
Phil Katz

Jean Linzer

Focus on Finance

Oct Income	\$ 24,948	Budget	\$ 31,654
Oct Expenses	\$ 30,744	Budget	\$ 33,555
Yr to date Income	\$ 289,454	YTD Budget	\$ 318,540
Yr to date Expense	\$ 320,018	YTD Budget	\$ 331,963

Year to date expenses exceeded YTD income by \$30,564, as opposed to budget expected deficit of \$13,423. YTD we have managed to keep expenses below budget, but income is not keeping up with the expenses. There were no unusual expenses to report in October. Donation statements were sent out early October for your review and if needed to catch up on pledges and contributions before year end. We appreciate your keeping up with your pledges and contributions. If for some reason you cannot fulfill your pledge, please let the Treasurer know. We certainly understand when circumstances change, but it also helps us in our planning. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Respectfully,
Linda Lull, Treasurer



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Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR



Saturday	Dec. 3	5:00 pm—8:00 pm	Stroll in the Glow Caroling on the Ave Live Nativity and Petting Zoo
Sunday	Dec. 4	9:00 am	Worship Service - 2 nd Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday
Sunday	Dec. 11	9:00 am	Worship Service - 3 rd Sunday of Advent Special Musical presentation: “Welcome to Our Wondering Sight”
Sunday	Dec. 18	9:00 am	Worship Service - 4 th Sunday of Advent
Friday	Dec. 24	5:30 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE Family & Candlelight Worship Service
Sunday	Dec. 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day “Unwrapping Christmas”



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

New Christmas Tradition



Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the Gospel
According to Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of
Jesus' Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing
WHO and WHY we celebrate!

My appreciation for *Your* appreciation. . .

I wanted to take just a moment and thank you from
the bottom of my heart for all the encouragement and
kindness expressed through “Pastor Appreciation”
Sunday. Your thoughtfulness meant more to me than
you can ever know. The cards. . . the gifts. . . the lov-
ingly prepared meal. . . all the vision and hard work of
our Worship and Music Council. . . but especially the
hugs and warm words. . . All worked deep joy into my
soul. I will carry the memory with me, even as we all
step into new beginnings. I appreciate all of you so
much! Thank you again.

With love,

Pastor Bill

Mission Ministry

Happy New Year!!

Well God has Blessed us with another new and exciting year. We here at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Mission Committee, are eagerly awaiting any and all projects. We love being able to help those who are down on their luck. Some by means of the Economy and others because of Nature's devastation. We are sorry that there are so many out in the world in need, but are happy we can help some. We eagerly await anyone wishing to join in on our committee. We are meeting on the first Monday of the month at 4:00pm., in the Church Conference room.

Extended Hands Food Bank

We continue to collect for Extended Hands Food Bank each Sunday. The food bank feeds over 1000 individual people on a regular bases. We need to help out if we are able to with food things brought into the Church or with money given either to Extended Hands directly or to the Church and earmarked Extended Hands Food Bank. The Food Bank is such a needed commodity in these times. Please if this is something you can help with, we would love to have you help.

Our Mission for January is for the Extended Hands Food Bank. We are calling January **PB&J Month**. Please bring in jars of any Peanut Butter and Jelly. If you wish to bring in bread you can. Thank you for your help.

Christmas Shoe Box

THANK YOU to all who helped make this project a huge success. We were able to collect over \$1000.00 to send to Samaritans Purse, so they could purchase things for the boxes. We figured this was the most economical way for most of us. They are able to buy things in bulk for less than we can purchase them. Therefore our money goes further. We do **THANK** all of you who decided that they still prefer to go shopping yourselves, your boxes were needed also. I



also want to Publicly Thank Susan Titus and Mary Holtan for running with this project this year. The Christmas Tree out of the Shoe boxes was a wonderful idea.

Veterans

Thank you to all who helped with our Christmas cards and gifts for the Veterans. It was a great success as you can read all about it in Donna Sims part of the newsletter. But please remember we collect things for the Veterans all year long. We collect new and slightly used clothes and socks for the homeless Veterans downtown Phoenix. If you wish to get rid of clothing or small furniture items, please call Donna Sims and she can give you a phone number for pick up for the Veterans.

Water

We are still collecting water for the homeless people in downtown Phoenix. When water goes on sale, please purchase a case or two. Something as simple as water is such a big help to help those less fortunate. You can bring this into the office and we will see that it gets to those in need.



We will keep you updated on any new projects and if you have a project you would like us to help with or one you would like to see us get involved in, please come and let us know.

Deuteronomy 15:11 says
"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

submitted by
 Mission Elder Terri Schmidt



Deck the halls... **SAVE THE DATE**

TIME TO TAKE DOWN THE DECORATIONS

Saturday - January 7, 2023 at 9am

Everyone is invited! No experience necessary!
 Inside and Outside Helpers Needed

Worship by Giving...Time, Talents & Treasure



GIVING IS SAFE AND EASY WITH FHPC eGiving

Sign up today!

FHPC has established a way for church members and supporters to express their generosity electronically! An online donation platform, GivePlus, is now on our website. Look for the GIVING menu at the top right on our **Home** page.

Support Our Troops



October and November are two of my busiest months of the year with all the things that need to be done in order to help make the holidays a better day for all of our

Church-connected military, our deployed military and many homeless veterans. This year my campaign to receive as many hand-written notes as possible to be placed in the Christmas cards to be mailed to our active-duty military has been my biggest and largest number of notes ever received in my nearly 15 years of collecting the notes. Are you ready? Total as of now is 40, with maybe a couple more coming in. I cannot thank those of you enough who were willing to take a few moments to write these holiday notes. Receiving these notes means so much to the recipients, believe me. (Enjoy the picture).



The next step in our military mission process is for me to go shopping for new long-sleeved t-shirts, socks, gloves, toiletries and maybe even a few snacks. These items are taken to Packages from Home to be packaged and shipped overseas to many different locations. Hopefully I will be able to find these items on sale somewhere.

Again, thank you to one and all who have stepped forward to help make this particular Mission Committee project a success. The Mission Committee is always happy to see many of you placing donations in our collection box located in the Narthex on the far side and in the Church office (gently used clothing, bedding, socks, t-shirts, jackets, shirts and toiletries). Thank you again for remembering our Veterans and our Troops.

Donna Sims, Mission Committee



Mission Ministry continued...

Fountain Hills Crisis Response Team

The Mission Committee at FHPC was fortunate to have 2 members from the Fountain Hills Crisis Response Team speak to us about their work in the community at one of our meetings. They are an important asset to our community.

Teamed with the Fire Department and Sheriff's office, The Crisis Response Team members are trained volunteers dedicated to providing immediate crisis intervention and on-scene emotional support during and after a traumatic event.

The volunteers help at the scene of a sudden death, traffic accident, fires, or other incidents. The two-person team focuses on the emotional and social needs of the person or family while the emergency personnel attend to their assignments. Crisis Team calls can range from minutes to hours depending on the situation. It is such a valuable outreach program to the community in Fountain Hills.

The Mission Committee donated \$500 in gift cards to help these wonderful volunteers support families in need at the time of a crisis. It might be providing a meal or some groceries, a stuffed animal for a child during a traumatic event, or other immediate needs.

The Crisis Response Team has no budget so this support from FHPC was greatly appreciated.

Pictured are Susan Titus and Viree Byrne FH Crisis Volunteer



INTERESTING FACTS

Damascus, Syria

Damascus, Syria, was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.

Istanbul, Turkey

Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents.

Ohio

There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio, everyone is man-made.

- submitted by Helen Roesch



U.S. Military Medallions for our Veterans

Medallions for our Columbarium niches are now available. Please call or stop by the church office for more information.



Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING 3rd Friday | Dec 16 | 9 am | Fireside Room

All ladies of the church are welcome to our meetings, where we plan future events of interest and fellowship.

We love new ideas!

Gifts of Women Sunday ~

The Gift of Women Sunday has been scheduled for Sunday, January 15th. The women hope that you will put this on your calendar and plan on attending and participating in this special service. More information on this service will be in the January issue of "In Touch".

INSPIRATIONAL READINGS BOOK

Yes! *Inspirational Readings*, our Women's Fellowship book, is here. It is dedicated to the Glory of God! You will find 74 pages in color of incredibly, diverse readings submitted by 36 contributors within our FHPC family. We believe it makes a personal, heart-warming gift to anyone and at any time. To order: Jane Allen on Sundays in Narthex or Marta in the church office. \$15 is suggested to cover costs. Thanks for your submissions & support!



Out 'n About—Out to Lunch Wednesday | Dec 21 | 12 noon | Needle Rock Kitchen & Tap

This is located at 28509 N. W. Verde River Way which is north of Rio Verde on the road going West. Come together for a relaxing, Holiday luncheon celebration. We can plan on carpooling if needed. Please contact Nancy at 480-387-3021 for reservations.



WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday | Dec 8 | 9:30 AM | Fireside Room



A brave confrontation becomes Esther's finest hour and changes the course of Jewish history. Learn more by reading Chapter 6 in our book: *Esther a Woman of Strength and Dignity*.

For information call Monique 336-382-8733.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE

1st Tuesday | Dec 6 | 1:00 pm | Fellowship Center

study: THE CHRISTMAS STORY ~ Script and Christmas carols

recipe: "Santa to a Senior"

I pray that we experience the passion and love that He has given us as we enact this prophecy-come-true of our Christ Child in the stable that glorious night in the "Little Town of Bethlehem". (props: manager and figurines)
Jane Allen, Leader 907-538-3223



EVENING CIRCLE

3rd Monday | December 19 | 4:00 pm | Yordy home

The Evening Circle will be enjoying their traditional Christmas potluck dinner at the home of Donna Yordy in the month of December but will resume their Priscilla Shirer "Armor of God" series in January. Meanwhile, the ladies are launching their newest mission project – "Blessing Bags for the Homeless." We see homeless individuals in our town and surrounding areas, and it makes us uncomfortable. We recognize that Jesus tells us to serve the poor and feed the hungry, but we don't exactly know how best to respond to the panhandlers we encounter. The Evening Circle has found a way for our congregation to help meet basic needs while sharing the love of Christ. The ladies will be filling gallon-size Ziplock bags with basic toiletry items, socks, small food items and Christian devotionals. These bags will be placed in the Narthex for church members to take and have on hand in their vehicles if they feel God nudging them to help an individual. Expect to see these bags in January. The Evening Circle expects this to be a huge success and will continue to produce blessing bags for as long as the congregation wishes to help distribute them.



Library Footnotes

The Elephant Whisperer**By Lawrence Anthony**

What a delight and refreshing change for me to read and review this book. It is primarily about wild animals in Africa and in a most painless and thrilling way we get a great education. The background: Lawrence Anthony is English and retains class ties to England but he and his family have lived in South Africa, Zululand, for generations. He is a fervent conservationist working with various Zulu clans to protect and even increase endangered species, but in addition, add greatly to their economy.

This is also a great love story of an unlikely pairing that became a most wonderful partnership of idealism, devotion, resilience and also very hard work, faith and hope. But enough of humans, our main story is mostly about elephants and we also read about the great affection and respect that Anthony Lawrence has for all animals, even hyenas and their place and value in creation and the balance of nature. This is such eye-opening as well as pleasurable reading. It really makes us think!

In 1999 Anthony and his elegant Parisian wife obtained a 5000 acre hunting ranch, Zhula Zhula, and he vowed the elephants would never be killed by these hunters again. It was to become a reserve where animals would be left alone, born free and remain free. He felt that the best cage was an empty one and money would eventually come from tourists.

Zhula Zhula has a great problem which many other reserves have—poachers. The very first chapter of this book opens in a very dramatic way. Gunshots are heard and animals are being killed. Anthony and his ranger hop into their Land Rover with their guns and head into the direction of the shots. No one there! Then gunshots are heard in the opposite direction. They head in that direction. Too late. Two large animals have been killed and butchered establishing a very well organized plot, indeed mystery, and we are immediately “hooked”. Poaching has been an ongoing and critical problem but it pales in comparison to the problems Anthony had when he agreed to accept a herd of wild elephants who would all be shot, all nine of them, including babies if he did not accept them.

There had been no elephants in Zululand for so many years that no one ever remembered seeing them. After conferring with his wife and staff and taking into considera-

tion all of the preparation and possible problems and not wanting them to be killed, he decided to take the chance. A whole herd of nine given to him! Free! However, before they arrived, the matriarch, (considered a particular problem), and her baby were killed.

So the journey begins, there is crisis after crisis. This is a very traumatized wild herd which is headed by a very clever matriarch who had managed to break out of every enclosure. The lives of nearby villagers were endangered. How Anthony finally managed to connect with them and gain their trust and affection (and he also gains great affection for them) make fascinating reading.

There are many other stories that also capture our attention including, the description of the African terrain in all seasons and the description of the Zulu clans and their way of life. There is great wisdom along with great superstition, a most interesting mix.

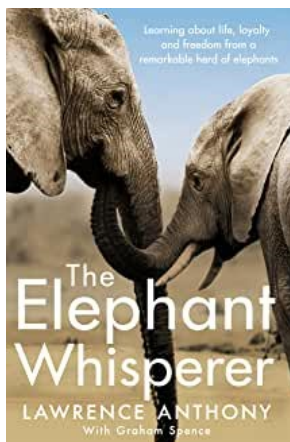
It is touching, as well as beautiful, to read how the elephant herd deals with a newborn, always a joy to them, is born with such deformed feet that it cannot stand. What nobility they showed. Also, it is fascinating to read how elephants cherish and care for the very aged who have lost their teeth and are dying of starvation. “Humanity” to the fullest.

This book is constantly packed with exciting moments—not a single one boring. To increase income, the Anthonys built housing for guests who wanted the experience of their lives in the African bush. At one time Anthony went to Iraq during the war with them and found accommodations for the animals in the Baghdad Zoo. They also were victims of war.

This autobiography comes to an end because Lawrence Anthony died in 2012. What a wonderful legacy he has left. Anyone reading this book will be so glad to have had the opportunity to learn so much and also so much that is positive; just what we need in the world of today.



Elsie Hoffarber



Communications



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications team strives to foster and increase awareness and understanding of FHPC's vision and mission, thereby stimulating commitment to FHPC. We do so in 2 ways:

- ◆ Internally. The team produces products for the church - The Weekly email and the In Touch monthly newsletter – to promote activities and ways for people to connect as well as upcoming events.
- ◆ Externally. We write and distribute press releases to the FH Times (newspaper and online website) and FH Chamber of Commerce and also strategize FHPC involvement in community events.
- ◆ We also manage and update content for the church's website and Facebook page, in addition to producing the live stream of weekly worship.



Kathy Cole



John Scaggs

All content intended for internal or external distribution should be emailed to news@fhpresbyterian.info.

If you wish to speak directly with a church Elder on the Communications team, contact John Scaggs at john.scaggs64@gmail.com or Kathy Cole at webmaster@fhpresbyterian.info.

Covenant Partnership

Are You a Partner in FHPC?

Most of us know about "Covenant Partners" – these are folks who have made the decision to call FHPC their "home church" and have formally entered into a commitment which grants them full rights of membership – including the ability to speak *and* vote in formal church meetings.

But did you know that ECO also affords us the opportunity to enlist "Affiliate Partners" in our congregation? This acknowledges that a special relationship exists between you and your FHPC family, *in addition to* your primary membership, which remains at another "home church" – back in Minnesota, for example. Becoming an Affiliate Partner witnesses to your engagement in life at FHPC, allows you to participate in church meetings and speak to the issue(s) at hand, while lacking only the right to vote.

Is FHPC your church "home away from home"? Consider "Affiliate Partnership" as a way to say so. Interested? Contact Pastor Bill or the church office at 480-837-1763.

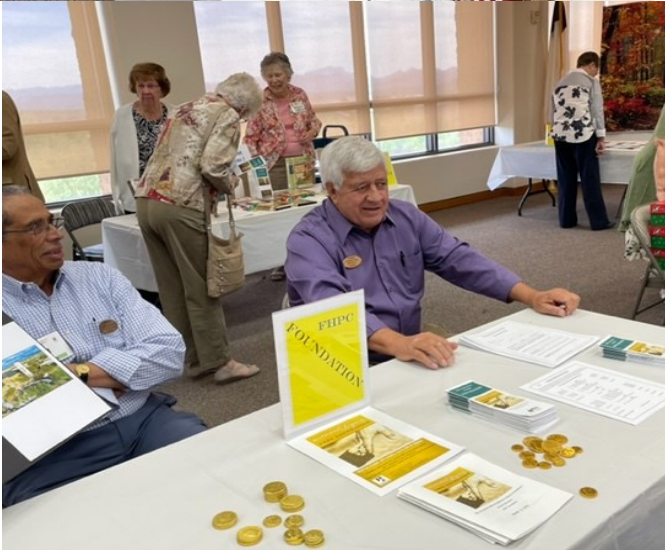


In the town of Barrow located in Alaska, the Sun sets November 18 and rises on January 23. Between this period there is no sunrise for 67 days.

ALL CHURCH KICKOFF



ALL CHURCH KICKOFF



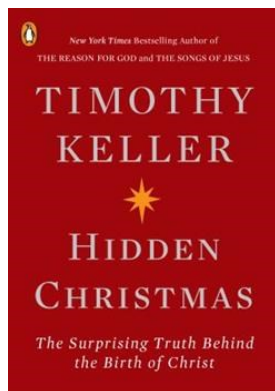
Photos courtesy of Bob Petersen

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Pastor Bill's New Ministry "Uncommon Community"

Join Pastor Bill Good
Mondays & Fridays **at 11 am**

There will be a link on our website...fhpresbyterian.info
Don't miss the opportunity to support this Ministry -
Search "Uncommon Community" on Facebook and
click on the "like" button



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
With Pastors Bill & Bob
Live on Wednesdays, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Center

Hidden Christmas

The Surprising Truth
behind the Birth of Jesus

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS Lunch & Lecture Series from the Great Courses

12:00 noon in the Fireside Room

We start with a lecture at noon followed by lunch with discussion. A second lecture will be offered to those who want to stay. Each lecture is 30 minutes. See schedule below:

Date	Course
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>The History and Archaeology of the Bible</u> <i>By Jean-Pierre Isbouts</i>

Dec 17	The World of the Gospels The Birth of Jesus
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Save the dates! Hope to see you there. Let the church office (480-837-1763) know if you are coming. This helps us prepare for the number of ladies and gentlemen for lunch.

- Maria Berry

This & That

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE PHILOSOPHY OF AMBIGUITY, AS WELL AS THE IDIOSYNCRASIES OF ENGLISH:

1. IF MAN EVOLVED FROM MONKEYS AND APES, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE MONKEYS AND APES?
2. WHAT IF THERE WERE NO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS?
3. IS THERE ANOTHER WORD FOR SYNONYM?
4. WHERE DO FOREST RANGERS GO TO "GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?"
5. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE AN ENDANGERED ANIMAL EATING AN ENDANGERED PLANT?
6. WOULD A FLY WITHOUT WINGS BE CALLED A WALK?
7. WHY DO THEY LOCK GAS STATION BATHROOMS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL BREAK IN AND CLEAN THEM?
8. WHY DO THEY PUT BRAILLE ON THE DRIVE-THROUGH BANK MACHINES?
9. HOW DO THEY GET DEER TO CROSS THE ROAD ONLY AT THOSE YELLOW ROAD SIGNS?
10. WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?
11. IF YOU TRY TO FAIL, AND SUCCEED, WHICH HAVE YOU DONE?
12. WHOSE CRUEL IDEA WAS IT FOR THE WORD 'LISP' TO HAVE 'S' IN IT?
13. WHY IS THERE AN EXPIRATION DATE ON SOUR CREAM?
14. CAN AN ATHEIST GET INSURANCE AGAINST ACTS OF GOD?

-submitted by Bob Petersen



Sage Advice from our Youngest Generation!!

1. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- **Alan, age 10**

-No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all the way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -- **Kristen, age 10**

2. WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. -- **Camille, age 10**

3. HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. -- **Derrick, age 8**

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. -- **Lori, age 8**

5. WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

-Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- **Lynnette, age 8**

- On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- **Martin, age 10**

6. WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

-When they're rich. -- **Pam, age 7**

-The law says you must be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- **Curt, age 7**

-The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. -- **Howard, age 8**

7. IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- **Anita, age 9**

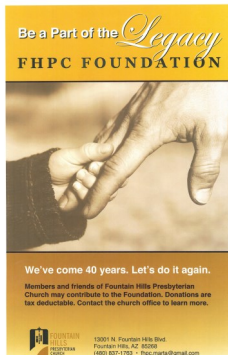
8. HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? -- **Kelvin, age 8**

9. HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. -- **Ricky, age 9**

FH Presbyterian Church Foundation



Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Foundation

“An Investment Today for the Life of Our Church Tomorrow”

The goal of the FHPC Foundation is to educate, inform and engage with the congregation to build the Foundation into a sound and sustainable non-profit enterprise to ensure the future growth of the church. The Board is committed to developing a dynamic source of funds to benefit the church and the local community. In order to meet the challenges of the present and future, here is how you can become an active part of this effort.

Listed below are some charitable goals and the common-sense solutions that support the FHPC Foundation while giving you an income tax deduction. Next month

we will bring you a few more...

IF THE GOAL OF YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING IS TO:

1. Have your monetary gift qualify for an income tax deduction...
 > **The solution is to give cash or a check to the FHPC Foundation**
2. Avoid taxes on capital gains and receive an income tax deduction...
 > **The solution is to make a gift of appreciated stock or other securities to the FHPC Foundation**
3. Defer a gift until after your death and avoid the possibility of estate taxes...
 > **The solution is to name the FHPC Foundation as a beneficiary in your will**
4. Donate a gift that might have little or no current cost to you...
 > **The solution is to contribute a life insurance policy that is no longer a part of your estate plans**
5. Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated real estate and receive an income tax deduction...
 > **The solution is to donate the property to the Foundation instead of entering into a sales contract**

***** AS ALWAYS, TO ENSURE YOUR DONATIONS ARE DONE PROPERLY, PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR FINANCIAL AND OR TAX ADVISOR.**

Foundation Trustees

Jean Ipema, Secretary, 480-652-0188
Matt Jefferson, Chair 480-837-6001
Bill Matty, 815-282-6024

Mary Holtan, 612-382-8824
Roy Nickel, 480-688-8392
John Brockelman, 602-359-2388
Linda Lull, Treasurer

The FHPC Foundation is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
 Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
 The Foundation's tax ID number is 46-2970452

Update on the Shocklies



Dear Friends,

We have only been in Edinburgh a month, but it is a familiar place to us. Two years ago, we left boxes stored in the basement of the church, saying ‘we will be back when the Lord brings us.’ We have unpacked those boxes now and we are glad to be back finding new rhythms, settling in to a new part of town, connecting with old friends and making new ones. The Lord has provided a wonderful flat, a car, and a chance to get involved in a few ways we see Him at work in the city.

We find ourselves eager to “jump right in”, but ministry in Scotland is a slow going, long term commitment and we’ve been wisely told to go slowly. We are seeking to be patient as we discern where to get involved. This has looked like us connecting with different ministry leaders in the city over coffee, having folks in our home for dinner, and lots of prayer.

Contact Us:

Our home address:
17/5 Royal Park Terrace
EH8 8JB
Edinburgh, Scotland
United Kingdom

Our **UK numbers** (can be contacted via whatsapp or via iMessage)

- Caleb: + 44 7748 255429
- Summer: +44 7887 568311

Please Pray:

- For the safe arrival of our baby boy in the next few weeks (He is due the week of Christmas!)
- Pray we would get to know the community in our area (called Meadowbank) and gain an understanding of where to get involved and how to serve those around us.
- Pray for the Christmas events at Hope City – it is an amazing time of the year to invite non Christian friends to join festivities and hear more about Jesus.



Social Media



FACEBOOK PAGE:
www.facebook.com/fhpresbyterianchurch/

Go to our website, at the bottom of our Home page, click on the Facebook icon. View Sunday worship and read current posts about FHPC. Be sure to “Like” our page to get posts directly in your Newsfeed.

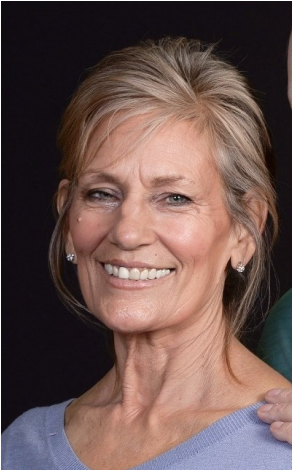


**Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church
YouTube Channel**

Go to our website, at the bottom of our Home page, click on the YouTube icon. View Sunday worship here. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube Channel to receive notifications of LIVE services.

SUBSCRIBE

Music Ministry



Debbie Fisher, Director of Music

We are here! The Advent season is upon us and our Music Ministry will be presenting;

“Welcome To
Our Wondering Sight”
By Bradley Ellingboe

This presentation will be a wonderful musical expression in rich beautiful harmony with voice, oboe and piano. Our Celebration Singers will present this to the congregation on **December 11**, at our 9:00 am worship service. We are

excited to bring the beautiful oboe played by Patti Backes into our presentation, inter-

twined with the beautiful, rich voices of our Singers, and feature the beautiful Mezzo Soprano voice of Jackie Miles in solo. We are truly looking forward to this presentation strengthening our season of love, renewal, and living in harmony with Christ in the center of our focus.

I want to send a special heartfelt message to our Reverend, Pastor, and friend, Bill Good.

We have worked together on hundreds of services. Each service being put together unifying message with music to bring the congregation into the love of Christ with the message of love in which God has brought us all together for. It has been one long, non-stop version of preparation,

with much support to detail, and unification of our souls with the congregation in mind the whole time. Thank you, Bill, you will be greatly missed, but, greatly loved by your new students. May they listen and discern as you have taught us to do. Thank you, also, for leaving us in the hands of the Reverend, Pastor and friend in Bob Simmons. We are in good hands with this prayerful man, and we look forward to our hundreds of worship experiences with him!

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

Deborah Fisher
Director of Music Ministries
Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO

From trashed to treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care. After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Come as you are

If you sometimes have a “love-hate” attitude toward Christmas, you’re not alone. Theologian Charles Spurgeon bemoaned the “gluttony and drunkenness” that often marked the holiday in 19th-century England. “If there be any day in the year of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Savior was born,” he said, “it is the 25th of December.” Yet Spurgeon also wished “there were 20 Christmas Days in the year,” because Christ’s birth represents “supreme joy.” In his writings and sermons, Spurgeon urges people to honor Jesus’ birthday “all year round,” reminding them that they can come “just as you are” because “no forms of etiquette are required in entering a stable.” God offers everyone total acceptance, Spurgeon adds, “for he puts himself into that manger that you may approach him.”

Interesting

Alaska

More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.

Amazon

The Amazon rain forest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply
The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.

Antarctica

Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert; the average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it, ice.), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.

Detroit

Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, carries the designation M-1, so named because it was the first paved road anywhere.

Rome

The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome, Italy (in 133 B.C.)
There is a city called Rome on every continent.

Russia

The deepest hole ever drilled by man is the Kola Super-deep Borehole, in Russia. It reached a depth of 12,261 meters (about 40,226 feet or 7.62 miles.) It was drilled for scientific research and gave up some unexpected discoveries, one of which was a huge deposit of hydrogen - so massive that the mud coming from the hole was boiling with it.

Submitted by Helen Roesch



The upside-down of Christmas

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.” Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.”

-The Newsletter Newsletter
by Communication Resources, Inc



A prayer to the Christ-child

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

—Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

-The Newsletter Newsletter
by Communication Resources, Inc

Life Line Screening



6111 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Suite 301
Independence, OH 44131

Here at FHPC
Monday, January 23, 2023
Fellowship Center

you ever thought about the following?

- I want to see my grandchildren grow up.
- I want to continue living independently.
- I don't want to be a burden on my family.

Preventive screenings can help and we have partnered with Life Line Screening to provide these valuable screenings.

The mission of Life Line Screening is to provide advance, yet affordable and convenient health screenings

that supplement your traditional healthcare.

They can help make you aware of a previously silent, unrecognized problem that can now get treated at an early stage, or confirm that you are on the right path and should continue your healthy habits.

Don't let heart disease and stroke get in your way of the life you love. Call toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word, "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://llsa.social/HSC> to schedule your health screening.

A package of 4 vital screenings is offered for only \$149.

A Christmas harvest

Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love.

—Helen Keller

*-The Newsletter Newsletter
by Communication Resources, Inc*



To my Church Family,

Thank you for all your prayers and concerns and for taking me to my appointments. You have been so very kind. Having therapy now. All is going well. Thank you again for all your help.

Lovingly,
Ruby Pearson



With deepest sympathy we list those members who have passed away in 2022

Michael O'Connor
Virginia Nelson
Tom Hencz
Bernice VerHage
Jim Roy
Pat Tuttle
John Bivens
John Brockelman
Mark Culley
Fred Hansen

*Well done, Thou good and faithful servant....
Enter thou into the joy Of thy Lord."*

Matthew 25:21



Hospitalized? Call the church!

If you are sick, hospitalized or home recovering from illness, we want you to call the church and let us know! In a congregation like ours where people leave in droves for extended summer months, it is easy for the staff, elders and deacons to assume, when we don't see someone, that they are simply "vacationing away." The truth is that some of you are sick and we are not aware of it.

You can help us by simply letting one of the staff know of your situation. We have an excellent support system in place due to the diligent efforts of our deacons. Help us serve you by communicating your situation.



It's so easy to order flowers...

You can request flowers for upcoming Sundays' worship at

www.fhpresbyterian.info/flowers

then click on the calendar

Or call church office 480-837-1763

Happy Birthday to...

12/02 Carole Sandrock
12/02 Nancy Wulfmeier
12/03 Larry Roland
12/04 Brooke Sewell
12/08 Bud Fuls

12/08 Marianne Winchester
12/09 Barbara Bowling
12/12 Arlene Stewart
12/16 Cindy Sewell
12/21 Emerson Uphoff
12/23 Jack Reynolds

12/24 Phyllis Rapp
12/25 Yvonne Ellingson
12/25 Edee Grider
12/26 Ilene Berg
12/27 Sunniva Graves



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A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
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In Touch is published monthly; the deadline for each issue is the **15th** of the month before publication. News and information should be submitted to the church office in hard copy, or email to news@fhpresbyterian.info Editor, Marta Ludwig; Proof Reader, Phyllis Rapp; Photographer: open.



A prayer for Christmas

The internet reveals little about Wilda English — only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.

God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

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Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

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