

FOUNTAIN HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN TOUCH

Fountain Hills, AZ

September 2023



FHPC VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision: Growing in love for God and others,
we make disciples for Jesus.

Calls us to...

Our Mission: Love God—Love People—Make Disciples
Rev. May 7, 2023

Arlene Stewart, Elder



Stewardship 2023-2024

“God has given each of us a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1Peter 4:10

A basket? Yes! Jesus fed the 5000 from a loaf of bread and a fish and still had many baskets of food left over. Moses was saved by being put in a basket!

Baskets have been used since the beginning of time to hold our cherished items. BUT this year we will fill baskets with our time, talents, and treasures. Returning to God the many gifts he has given us.

We are looking forward to the coming church year 2023-2024. Our annual *Welcome Back Kick-off* will be on Sunday, October 15th in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Representatives from all our Mission Programs will set up tables of information about this past year's work and what is coming in 2024. Take a look at what your time, talents and money did this past year and what is needed this coming year.

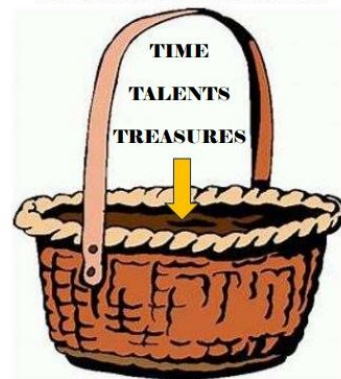
You are invited to ask questions, review their works and even fill out a “basket” card, giving your time and talents to these good works. You see, being a Steward of God's gifts to you, means returning them to His glory and His Church.

Stewardship is year-round! Just wait and see what your Stewardship Committee has planned for your basket!

Sincerely,
On behalf of the Session and Stewardship Committee,

*Arlene Stewart, Elder
and Stewardship Chair*

**YOU ARE THE STEWARD OF GOD'S GIFTS...
USE THEM FOR HIS GLORY**



New Church Office Hours — Open Fridays!

Effective September 5th, the church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Worship Services

Sundays 9:00 a.m. in-person in the Sanctuary or online and replay on our website, YouTube and Facebook. Join us after service in the Fellowship Center,

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons
Transitional Pastor

Lisa McFarland
Pastoral Intern

Johannah Fernandez
Administrative Coordinator

Linda Lull
Treasurer

Debbie Fisher
Director of Music Ministry

Dorothy Parris
Pianist

Frank DeGroot
Custodian

Contact Church Staff
www.fhpresbyterian.info/contact-us/

CHURCH SESSION
Clerk of Session
Jack Reynolds

Class of 2023
Kathy Cole—Communications
Terri Schmidt—Missions

Class of 2024
Ilene Berg—Worship & Music
Arlene Stewart—Personnel

Class of 2025
Sandra Coultrap—Christian Formation
Bob Cowden—Finance
Bob Lull—Bldgs & Grounds
Jackie Miles—Outreach
Jeff Rand—Communications
Jim Stewart—Finance

Contact Session
www.fhpresbyterian.info/session-mailbox/

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024
Phil Katz, Moderator
Jean Linzer

Class of 2025
Barbara Hoverland
Matt Jefferson

Care Committee
Linda Kester
Leslie Hermans
Tyson Robinson
Susan Titus

For More Information
www.fhpresbyterian.info/elders-deacons/

Focus on Finance

July Income	\$ 39,222	Budget	\$ 31,387
July Expenses	\$ 28,328	Budget	\$ 28,432
YTD Income	\$ 258,205	YTD Budget	\$ 219,709
YTD Expense	\$ 212,827	YTD Budget	\$ 224,876



Considering the summer months are generally low donation months, we have managed to build a surplus that will enable us to make repairs that are needed, as well as pay for the ones we didn't expect. All thanks to your keeping up with your generous pledges and contributions. We have had some air conditioner issues that haven't been major. We are slowly getting through the summer months, and are looking forward to seeing the return of our Winter Residents.

Respectfully,
Linda Lull, Treasurer



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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.

Affiliate Partners 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.

Are you are interested in becoming a Covenant Partner with full rights of membership, or a Affiliate Partner, making FHPC your “home away from home”? Contact Pastor Bob Simmons or call the church office at 480-837-1763 to attend an upcoming informational meeting.

Worship by Giving... 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 is now on our website.

Go to our website www.fhpresbyterian.info and look for the **Giving Box** image at the top right. Or, click **Giving** in the top menu.

Worship & Music Ministry

Name Badges

It is wonderful to see name badges being used on Sunday morning! We hope you are taking advantage of the comfortable opportunity name badges provide to begin a conversation with new friends. Some of the best relationships we build start with an introduction at church. Thanks again to Presby Pickins' for funding this important project.

If you have not received a name badge, or are in need of a replacement, please see Ilene Berg or notify Johannah at the church office at 480-684-0344.



Mission Ministry



Welcome to the Mission Ministry section of our newsletter. We are anxious to keep you updated on our projects. We try hard to be good stewards for our Lord, so we want you involved as much as possible. **“Therefore, Christians must use their gifts by his will, being good stewards or caretakers of what God has entrusted.”**

1 Corinthians 4:7

Code Red

With the intense heat we have had this summer, we decided to extend our part of the Code Red program through the end of August. Thank you to everyone who donated and graciously supported this mission.

School Supplies

We were able to take quite a few things over to the elementary school. We want to mention we are in the process of getting head sets for the kids. We won't be able to get them all some, but we can help. They eventually want all the kids to have them. They will have them all through school.



Extended Hands Food Bank

We are still helping Extended Hands Food Bank as much as we can. We have the shopping cart out in front of the Church on Sunday mornings. We take all canned goods and non perishable items. If you prefer to give money, you can write a check to Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church and on the memo line put EHFB. Or if you prefer you can write

a check directly to Extended Hands Food Bank and put in cart and we will make sure they receive it. If you prefer the hands on approach, the Food Bank is always looking for volunteers to help stock shelves and pack boxes for people. This is just another way for us to be stewards of Christ. Thank you in advance for your help.

Veterans

We are still collecting things for our Veterans, both on the street and in facilities. We always need new white T-Shirts, underwear, socks, we usually ask for white or light colors in the Summer and darker in the Winter months. If you have magazines or books you would like to get rid of, we will take these for them also. We also collect used clothing in good shape for our Veterans. Things like light jackets, sweaters, pants and shirts, and slightly used shoes. Donna Sims will have a better list of things in her part of the newsletter.

We will have a new project next month and I will let you in on what it will be. We will still continue to collect for several of these projects throughout the year. If you have a special project you would like us to pursue, come to a mission meeting and tell us about it. We would welcome you to join our group or just give us ideas.

“Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms.” 1Peter 4:10

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Schmidt, Mission Elder

Preparation for Worship

It's Labor Day weekend, Lord — a good time to think about work and vocation. Guide me in the work, paid or unpaid, you most need me to do right now. “Give me understanding, that I may keep your law” (**Psalm 119:34**); “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law” (**Romans 13:8**). God, help me love my neighbor and so keep your law. We tend to think of clouds as gloomy, Lord, but your pillar of cloud protected the newly escaped Hebrews from their Egyptian enslavers. May we sense your protection in the clouds of life. Amen. Jesus, like a mother hen you gather us — your squawking, demanding, frenetic brood — in safety beneath your wings (**Luke 13:34**). Quiet us, warm us, feed us, *O Lord. Amen.*

-The Newsletter Newsletter by Communication Resources, Inc

Support Our Troops



Due to a last-minute monumental donation of a truckload of items, we are currently on the schedule of CBI for a pickup. I am very grateful to the family, who had recently lost a beloved aunt and wonderful kind lady, that contacted me to see if I may be interested in receiving any items for a dona-

tion and of course I said absolutely and it went from there. Two car loads of a full array of items were unloaded into my garage, after having moved and stacking other things on top of each other to make room, I am now awaiting word of the pickup date. Again, even though under circumstances that are not always easy, I am very grateful to this family.

With the summer months still upon us, we continue to collect items suitable for warm weather wear. Needed are short sleeved t-shirts, shorts if possible, and even jeans are ok. Other items needed are socks, summer hats, shoes, blankets, towels, and of course the most important items needed are toiletries.

For our Church-connected military families, please keep in mind that beginning in the month of October, my need for updated ranks and addresses will soon be at-hand. Hard to believe that it will soon be that time of year that I will soon be asking many of you for your hand-written notes to be enclosed in our annual Christmas Card program. Please remember how very important this project is to the recipients.

The Mission Committee is always happy to see members placing items in our collection box, which is now located in the Narthex on the East side and in the Church office. Thank you again for remembering our Veterans and our Troops.

Donna Sims,
Mission Committee



Our Help — *past, present and future*

This month, America marks the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life forever for millions more. The nation was shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of us any assumption that “it can’t happen here.” September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of “liberty and justice for all” served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalm 46 reminds us that “though the earth should change” (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (v. 1). We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

How have God’s presence and power sustained you through life’s changes? How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

-Adapted from *The Wired Word*

Christian Education



Faith is a process. It involves growth, change and development. This means you do not stay in the same place. With God's help, you will choose new ways, you'll discover new things and you will grow in wisdom and understanding.

Sandra Coultrap
Christian Education Elder

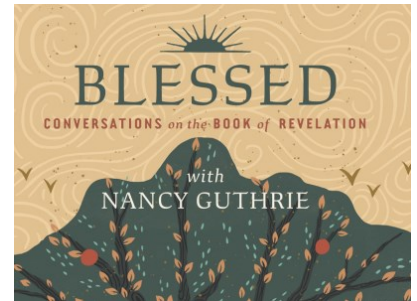
New Adult Bible Study

Sundays | After Worship | Fireside Room | Begins September 24

Tuesdays | 6 p.m. | Fellowship Center | Begins September 26

Pastoral Intern Lisa McFarland will lead this study on the Book of Revelation, using "Blessed" by Nancy Guthrie.

A Community Bible Study We welcome the Fountain Hills Community to attend either session of this study. For more information, contact Lisa at lmcfarland@fhpresby.org. Pre-register by calling the office 480-837-1763.

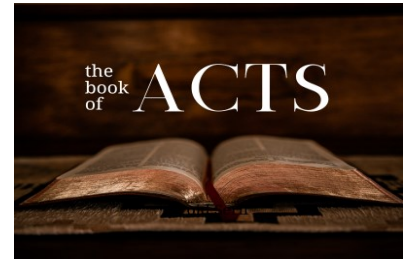


New Men's Bible Study

Mondays | 8:30 a.m. | Fireside Room

Beginning in October

Elder Bob Cowden will introduce a new Bible Study for men on the Book of Acts in October. The date will be forthcoming.



Adult Bible Study "Book of Mark"

**Sundays | After Worship |
Fireside Room**

Pastoral Intern Lisa McFarland continues to lead the study of Mark through September 19th.



Afternoon Circle

1st Tuesday | 1:00 p.m. | Library

On September 5th we will resume our study of The Genius of Jesus (the man who changed everything) by Erwin R McManus. Call Jane Allen 907-538-3223 for information.



Women's Morning Bible Study 2nd Thursday | 9:30 a.m. | Fireside Rm

Shannon Bream offers us a deeper understanding of each of 16 women in her book *The Women of the Bible Speak*. Please read "Sarah and Hagar, Women of the Covenants" as well as the Introduction. For more information call Monique Reynolds 336-382-8733.



Evening Circle

3rd Monday | 6 p.m. | Adult Center

We will return on October 16, meeting in the Adult Center. Our new book is Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus. Call Judy Hamouda, Leader 480-215-0827 for more information.



The Center for Biblical Studies



The Contemporary Christian

Instructor
Dr. Bob Simmons, Pastor

“The Contemporary Christian” is a series of seven courses most of which are 4 to 6 weeks in length. The purpose of these studies is to build a strong and firm foundation for the Christian Faith.

We completed the first course, “What is the Gospel?” on August 9. We began the second course, “What is a Disciple?” on August 30. This second course is now closed to new students, but we are taking registrations for the third course, “Who is Jesus?” that is scheduled to begin October 4.

The class meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room and 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. We normally take a one-week break between courses. The only cost is for the course book (normally around \$15). Each class meets for one hour.

The following courses will be offered:

1. What is the Gospel? - Completed
2. What is a Disciple? - Began August 30 (Registration Closed)
3. Who is Jesus? - Begins October 4
4. Understanding the Bible
5. What is the Church?
6. Understanding the World
7. Basic Christianity

Please pre-register for upcoming courses to ensure we have enough books.

Go to www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-studies or call Johannah at 480-837-1763 or email to office@fhpresby.org.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: “When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the ‘I don't care’ blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: ‘And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’” (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. “God always has his person,” he writes, also citing the book of Esther. “When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work.”

Lucado continues: “God has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

-The Newsletter Newsletter
by Communication Resources, Inc

Women's Fellowship

Out 'n About — Out to Lunch

3rd Wednesdays | Noon

Our Out n' About luncheon group will meet at **Euro Pizza Cafe on September 20th** in the Fountain Plaza at Noon. Come enjoy an array of items from their enticing menu. Call Nancy for reservations or cancellations at 480-837-3021. See you there!!



Women's Fellowship Meeting

3rd Friday | 9 a.m. | Fireside Room

All ladies of the church are welcome to our meetings, starting on September 15 where we plan future events of interest and fellowship. We love new ideas! We will see you all.

Ladies Drop In

Tuesdays | 10 a.m. | Fireside Room

Join us for fellowship, board games, puzzles, cards and conversation in the Fireside Room every Tuesday!

Men's Fellowship

Gentlemen: Summer is winding down and it's time for us to meet again. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 9 when we'll meet in the Fellowship Center starting at 8:00 a.m. with coffee, juice, and sweet rolls, followed by a full breakfast at 8:30 am. Join us for some good fellowship and tell us how you survived the hot summer! Blessings to all.

Bill Matty

E-mail bbmatty67@gmail.com

Tel No. 815-282-6024



September 2023 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in September are:



Labor Day
September 4, 2023



National Grandparents Day
September 10, 2023



Patriot Day
September 11, 2023



First day of Autumn
September 23, 2023

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

-The Newsletter Newsletter
by Communication Resources, Inc

Communications Ministry

It's that Time of Year September signals the beginning of a new season when many of our church family and friends return from their summer sojourn and activity around our church is abuzz once again. Our ministries and committees are planning programs, initiatives, activities, service projects, and events to support our Vision of *"Growing in love for God and others we make disciples for Jesus"* and our Mission to *"Love God—Love People—Make Disciples."* Your Communications Team is here to help you spread the word!

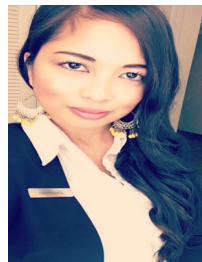
Whether your audience is internally (our congregants) or externally (the Fountain Hills community), consistent and effective communication is essential to the success of any endeavor. Your message should answer the 5 W's and H questions— Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? If possible, provide photos to convey what words alone cannot. Contact a member of the Team for assistance in developing your plan.



Kathy Cole



Jeff Rand



Johannah Fernandez

Email All Communications Submissions
to news@fhpresbyterian.info

Contact the Communications Team:

Elder Kathy Cole (860-884-5008)

Elder Jeff Rand (480-547-9580)

Adm. Coord. Johannah Fernandez (480-837-1763)

www.fhpresbyterian.info/communications-ministry

Outreach Ministry



Jackie Miles

Connecting with Our Community The Outreach Ministry seeks opportunities and supports the means for the FHPC family to broaden its involvement in the community so that we can spread the Word and share Christ's love with our neighbors. There are various ways our congregation acts as disciples by bringing the work of the church to the Town's people through activities and events.

Our current outreach efforts include participation in the Volunteer Expo in January, Fountain Hills Day in March, and the Stroll in the Glow in December. We also host events on our campus that are open to the public such as for 4th of July and the Presby Pickins' Flea Market. We work with other churches to host large-scale events that simply serve to spread the Good News like Easter Sunrise Service and the Community Thanksgiving Service.

Our Biblical Garden and Chapel offer places of respite for our neighbors seeking a closer communion with God through meditation and prayer. In addition, we extend hospitality to our greater Fountain Hills community by opening our campus facilities to outside groups for private meetings and events.

By participating in these various activities and events, we will foster a stronger sense of community within our congregation and create opportunities for a positive impact in the town. If you're interested in learning more about how you can become more involved in Outreach, contact Elder Jackie Miles at 480-518-5182 or jackiemles@aol.com.

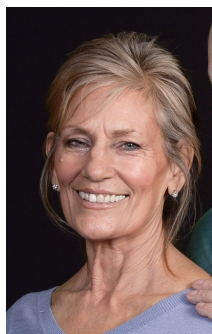


"September"

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer. —Helen Hunt Jack-



Music Ministry



I'd like to thank the wonderful musicians who shared their beautiful, powerful and inspiring selections with us this Summer Season. Such a variety of styles in music performance that bring clear praise to God. There has never been an absence of traditional music in our worship services, which is a pleas-

ing, but, to add the variety that assures every heart might have a chance to be touched while worshiping is of wonderful value. That, in itself, has become tradition. Thank you, musicians, and, thank you congregation. It certainly is a wonderful experience to worship with you in our Sanctuary.

CELEBRATION SINGERS will begin their rehearsals on Thursdays at 4:30 in the Sanctuary beginning September 22. We are all looking forward to the reuniting of such a splendid choir. We will be breaking in some really nice, top of the line, brand spanking new Choir Folders, which were so generously purchased and donated by Whom only God knows, and me, Dorothy, and Spouse of the one. Thank you, again, wonderful person!

CELEBRATION RINGERS are moving their rehearsals to Mondays at 4:30 in the Sanctuary.

We have new and experienced ringers committed to the experience. It's a wonderful group learning to move as one instrument, learning to feel the same continued beat, playing their bell on the correct beat of the correct measure, if you can find which measure we are on to do so.

We do spend a bit of time laughing at ourselves as some are reacquainting themselves with pitch names and note values. It's truly a good thing for our minds, and definitely for our souls. Thank you all for being a part of Christianity in action! Looking forward to each rehearsal, and to see folks welcomed back into the fold.

"The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace"

Psalm 29:11

Debbie Fisher,

Director of Music Ministries
Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO

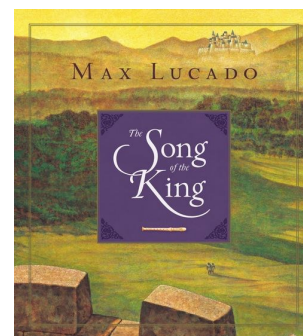
Follow God's Song

In Max Lucado's *The Song of the King* (Crossway Books), three knights long to marry a princess, so her father arranges a contest. Suitors must travel through a dark forest full of frightening creatures. Each suitor may select one travel partner.

One suitor selects the princess's brother, who displays an ivory flute, one of only two in the kingdom; the other flute is his father's. The flutes play the same song. "The king will play from the castle wall," the prince says. "Follow his song, and you will find the castle."

How did the winning suitor avoid getting confused by creatures who imitated the king's song? "I knew ... only one ... could play the song as you do," he tells the king. "So I asked [the prince] to travel with me. As we journeyed, he played. I learned your song so well that though a thousand false flutes tried to hide your music, I could still hear you."

God's song is love, and his Son, Jesus, plays it, too. When Jesus is our companion through life's darkness and confusion, he'll lead us safely to our heavenly King.



Meet Our Musicians



Jackie Miles

My family had an upright piano, so at age 5 I started piano lessons from a teacher who came to our house. A couple of years later I started violin lessons. (Our grandfather had given us an old violin which had previously belonged to a distant relative.)

Growing up in Denver, the public schools I attended had excellent music programs, and my grade school music teacher was like a mother to me. I loved singing in the choir she directed, and also playing the violin in her small school orchestra. My sister Marilyn, who was two years older than I, was also learning to play the piano and violin. When I was about ten years old, she and I gave a recital at our home for friends and neighbors. One of us would play piano to accompany the other on the violin, and then we would play piano solos and duets.

My father's sister lived nearby. She had a green thumb and her garden was full of flowers all summer long. Marilyn and I would fill our little red wagon with tin cans full of water and our aunt's flowers, and go door to door in our neighborhood selling bouquets for 25 cents each. In four summers we netted enough to buy us each a better violin than Grandad's old one. I ended up with a Stanley, made in Massachusetts in 1952 (then about \$500.)

In junior high and high school, I played second chair in the first violin section of the orchestra. In addition, in high school I was accepted into the all-city orchestra and then into the all-state orchestra. I contemplated pursuing a nursing career after graduation, but I had a limited science background because there was always a conflict in the school schedules between the orchestra periods and the chemistry and physics classes. So I eventually became a music major at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

That lasted for a year, because I met Jerry (then a sophomore) at CU and we were married in the middle of my second year of college. He was hoping to graduate and then attend law school, so while he continued his studies, I went to work for the university newspaper and the Boulder Daily Camera newspaper as a teletype setter operator and proof reader. In California a few years later, after I had continued this same type of work at the Hollywood Citizen News and the Los Angeles Daily Journal, Jerry graduated number one in his law school class at UCLA.

Thereafter, when our son and daughter were in school, I gave music lessons to a few of the children in the neighborhood, and then returned to my college studies in Los Angeles, earning a master's degree in speech therapy.

After we moved to Fountain Hills, Jerry rewarded me by buying me a chance to direct one selection (Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever) played by the Phoenix Symphony in their concert at Fountain Park on May 7, 2000. What a thrill!

And a few years later I accompanied the Fountain Hills high school choir on piano when they rehearsed, and then helped to chaperone them to New York City to sing in a competition at the Lincoln Center.

Throughout life, I have enjoyed singing in various church choirs. I have found that music gives me great comfort and soothes my spirit. I have met some wonderful directors and choir members. And it is a great blessing to be part of the choir at FHPC, under Debbie's direction.

Library Footnotes

Earlier this year when Mary Alice Bivens relocated from Fountain Hills to Scottsdale, she generously donated about six boxes of books to our church. She and her husband John had accumulated them over the years in their own home library. They were particularly interested in the Middle East, so we now have a lot of good additional resources in the church Library dealing with that part of the world. As Carol Fuls and I were processing some of the books, we found a message written by John to friends about 11 years ago inside the book *Son of Hamas*. I asked Mary Alice for permission to print the message, using it as a book review for the church newsletter, which was granted. Following is John's message to friends which he probably wrote about ten years ago and it is still very timely:

A friend of ours gave us a book for Christmas, knowing of our interest and passion for peace in the Middle East. I have just finished reading it. The book, on the New York Times bestseller list, is *Son of Hamas* written by Mosab Hassan Yousef. The author is the son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a founding leader of Hamas, internationally recognized as a terrorist organization and responsible for suicide bombings and other deadly attacks against Israel.

The book tells the true story of a Hamas insider who rejected his violent environment and how he embraced the teachings of Jesus to show the world a way to peace. It provides tremendous insight not only to Hamas but also to Islam. I strongly recommend it to those of you who dare to explore the roots of terror, intrigue, religion – Islam and Christianity, and relationships.

I would like to share a couple of excerpts from the book:

"I tell my story as well to let the Israeli people know that there is hope. If I, the son of a terrorist organization dedicated to the extinction of Israel, can reach a

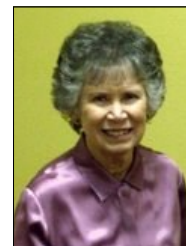
point where I not only learned to love the Jewish people but risked my life for them, there is a light of hope.

My story holds a message for Christians too. We must learn from the sorrows of my people, who carry a heavy burden trying to work their way into God's favor. We have to get beyond the religious rules we make for ourselves. Instead, we must love people – on all sides of the world- unconditionally. If we are going to represent Jesus to the world, we have to live his message of love."

He also shares his observations about the church:

"I am sometimes disappointed in the church, especially here in the West. I am eager for a new generation to lead it and recognize their responsibility toward the other side of the world and the major problems we are facing, like the problem of Islam. We have huge responsibilities as Christians, and the problems look controversial, but we can't back down just to be "politically correct." I don't know why it's so easy for us as followers of Jesus Christ to understand the real nature of Islam and to speak the truth about it, and yet do nothing about it, or do something too late for it to matter. The church, it seems, is ready to act after everybody else has started to act, and that's not how it should be." - John Bivens

- *Barbara Oakeson*



The beauty of learning

There is divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps. The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.



UPCOMING EVENTS



New Hours

Presby Pickins' FLEA MARKET

First Saturdays | October - April
8:00am - 3:00pm at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Kicking off our '23-'24 Season October 7th!

For more information: www.fhpresbyterian.info/fleamarket/

Paige Productions Youth Theatre

Our production of Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. is on Sept 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. It is a 60-minute long musical. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at www.paigeproductions.com. Here are some fun facts about this production:

- This is our largest cast ever: 45 kids representing approximately 18 different schools around the valley. We even have performers driving in from Buckeye.
- We purchased 3 hanging microphones enabling us to have better sound and accommodate larger crowds.
- We will not need as much black drapery up in the Fellowship Hall thanks to the microphones.
- We have incredible performers and vocalists in this production. The audience will not be disappointed:)
- We are encouraging local children to come to the production wearing their favorite mermaid or princess dress. We have special seating for the kids at the 2:00 p.m. performance.

We want to say thank you to all the Presbyterian Congregation members who came to watch our \$500 Talent Show at the beginning of August. We thoroughly enjoyed having them come to the show. Thank you!

Paige Beckman,
 480-375-8058 | paigeproductions123@gmail.com





With our deepest sympathy we list those members who have passed away in 2023

*Yvonne Ellingson
Lois Medley
Kurt Ahrens
Sunniva Graves
Heather Greco
Carol Hencz
Phyllis Rapp
Jane Haynes
Bill Lyon
Ben Fast*

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

Matthew 25:21

Happy birthday to — and for — you!



Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not

say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."

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.

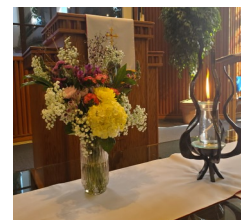
You can help us by simply letting one of the staff know of your situation. We have an excellent support system in place due to the diligent efforts of our deacons. Help us serve you by communicating your situation.



3-Sep Marilyn Humes
4-Sep Greg Fisher
4-Sep William Quigley
9-Sep Bradley Kern
10-Sep Barbara Hoverland
12-Sep Bonnie Matty
14-Sep Lou Meeuwenberg
15-Sep Leslie Hermansen
15-Sep Jeanette Simmons
28-Sep Tom Taylor

It's so easy to order flowers...

You can request flowers in honor or in memory of someone dear, or in celebration of a special event. The flowers will be placed on the communion table for all to enjoy during Sunday worship. To order, call the church office 480-837-1763.



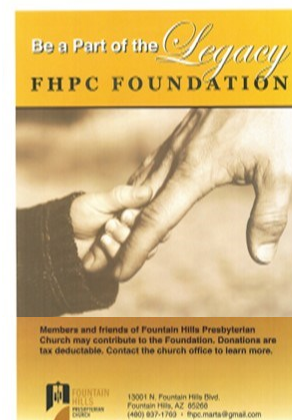
FH Presbyterian Church Foundation

“Our purpose is to endow and support the future needs of FHPC’s missions by encouraging our members to include the Foundation in their planned giving”

The goal of the FHPC Foundation Trustees is to educate and engage with the congregation in order to build a sound and sustainable non-profit enterprise to help ensure the future growth of the church. The Board is committed to developing a sustainable source of funds benefiting the church and it’s ministries.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION MAY BE USED TO...

- † Pay tribute to loved ones through a Memorial Gift
- † Invest in our community through local mission programs
- † Perpetuate the life of the church by investing in youth and education programs
- † Support continued successes in church programs and activities



YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDATION IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS...

- † Through a cash gift or check
- † Endorsing stock over to the Foundation
- † Donating some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution to the Foundation
- † Designating the Foundation in a trust fund
- † Pledging a future bequest
- † Name the Foundation as a beneficiary under your will
- † Contribute a life insurance policy that is no longer a part of your estate plans
- † Name the Foundation as a direct beneficiary of all, or a portion, of your retirement assets

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

Any questions or concerns? Please contact one of the Board members listed below.

Foundation Trustees

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

Mary Holtan, 612-382-8824
 RoyNickel, 480-688-8392
 Keith Coultrap, 208-967-2303
 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**

Biblical Garden



Plan a Stroll As the weather cools down, make a point to enjoy our Biblical Garden, at the *heart* of our campus. Before embarking on your tour, read about the numerous interesting plants in the Garden by going online to www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden or pick up a brochure in the office.

Social Media — Live Streaming



Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/fhpresbyterianchurch/

View Sunday worship and read current posts about FHPC. Be sure to “Like” our page to get posts directly in your Newsfeed.



YouTube Channel
[@fhpresbyterianchurch](http://www.youtube.com/@fhpresbyterianchurch)

View Sunday worship here under “Live.” Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube Channel to receive

notifications of upcoming LIVE services.

SUBSCRIBE



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.



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Editor, Johannah Fernandez; Proof Reader: Kathy Cole; Photographers: Tom Taylor



13001 Fountain Hills Blvd. - Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
Phone - (480) 837-1763 Office E-Mail Address: office@fhpresby.org
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m. to Noon
www.fhpresbyterian.info

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons | Email: bsimmons@fhpresby.org | Cell: 623-239-8720

