

In Touch

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Pastor Jim Rizer | Great Expectations!



When I was a child, my grandmother would invite the grandchildren to take different color markers and circle the things we might want for Christmas in the Sears Catalog. This annual exercise filled our imaginations with things we never knew we wanted and with great expectations of what would be under

the tree. Unintentionally, my grandmother pointed us to one of the great truths about the birth of the Messiah.

In Luke 2 we get a glimpse of the great expectations concerning Jesus' birth, as Simeon, who has been "waiting for the consolation of Israel", rejoices as he sees the Christ Child and prays, "my eyes have seen your salvation". The anticipation for the long-awaited birth the Savior came not from a marketing catalog, but from God's promises in the Old Testament. The

promised consolation that Simeon was waiting for was realized in "the Lord's Christ".

The title "Christ" is the New Testament word for "anointed One" or "Messiah". "Christ" is not Jesus' last name, but rather the declaration of His role as the Messiah. Dale Bruner suggests that the best way for us to understand the weight and expectation of this word is to translate it, "Jesus The Answer". He is Israel's hope and consolation. He is the answer to our problems of sin and death.

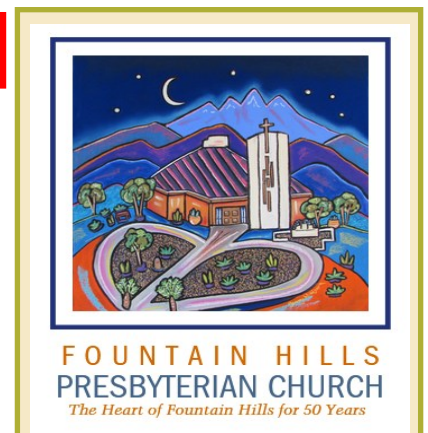
This Advent we will look at the great expectations that came with the promised birth of The Answer, how Jesus meets these expectations, and how they can be realized in our lives.

11/30/25	Hope	Isaiah 40:1-5
12/7/25	Peace	Isaiah 9:7
12/14/25	Joy	Isaiah 9:3
12/21/25	Love	Isaiah 7:10-14

Come and be reminded of the depth of God's promises and love as we explore these great expectations.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 5 PM

Join us on **December 24 at 5 PM** as we gather in worship to celebrate the birth of Christ, God's gracious gift to the world. In the glow of candlelight, we'll hear the good news proclaimed by heaven and earth: peace has come through our Savior. We look forward to sharing this holy night with you! -FHPC



OUR STAFF

Pastor Jim Rizer
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Eric Williamson
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Linda Lull
Treasurer

Debbie Fisher
Director of Music

Dorothy Parris Pianist

Steve Trommer
Custodian

CHURCH SESSION

MaryAnn O'Connor
Clerk of Session

Jackie Miles | Outreach
Jeff Rand | Administration
Jim Stewart | Bldg & Grounds
Class of 2025

Phyliss Kern | Finance
Sandi Thompson | Fellowship-Assimilation
Brendan Wagner | Mission
Class of 2026

Jack Morris | Personnel
MaryAnn O'Connor | Worship & Music
Class of 2027

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Matt Jefferson
Class of 2025

Jeannette Simmons
Class of 2026

Susan Titus, Moderator
Ilene Berg, Jean Linzer
Suzanne Ottoson
Class of 2027

13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd,
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
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Focus on Finance | 2025

October Income	\$ 55,804	Budget	\$ 38,417
October Expenses	\$ 38,096	Budget	\$ 39,406
YTD Income	\$ 370,449	YTD Budget	\$ 384,170
YTD Expense	\$ 362,878	YTD Budget	\$ 395,553

Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer



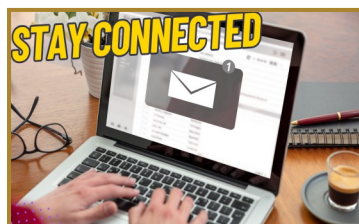
Our finances continue to be in a positive position. We are catching up with giving after the slow summer months. We are also catching up with expenses that have been budgeted and are now being used. We managed to get through the summer months with a few capital expenditures, but not as significant as expected. However, we do have one air handler that will need a replacement part during the winter months for which the capital reserve will be tapped for payment. Thank you for keeping up with your pledges and contributions for the ministry, missions and operations of FHPC. We greatly appreciate it.

FHPC eGiving is Safe and Easy



FHPC offers church members and supporters a convenient way to express their generosity online through our eGiving portal. To get started, sign up today at www.fhpresbyterian.info. Look for the Giving Box image at the top right or click "Giving" in the top menu.

You can also use the Vanco Mobile app to give directly from your phone. For instructions, please refer to the eGiving Help section.



STAY CONNECTED WITH FHPC!

Make sure you're getting our latest news and updates. Subscribe to our email list at: www.fhpresbyterian.info or contact the church office at 480-837-1763 or office@fhpresby.org.



Love God – Love People – Make Disciples



Sermon Series: Great Expectations

Advent is a season of waiting and expectation. We live after the first coming of Christ and await His triumphant return with expectations for all things to be made new. Those who waited for the birth of the Messiah had expectations as well. This Advent Season we will explore some of those expectations and how they are uniquely met in Jesus and how He continues to satisfy areas in our lives as well.

Nov. 30	Hope	Isaiah 40:1-5
Dec. 7	Peace	Isaiah 9:7, John 14:27
Dec. 14	Joy	Isaiah 9:3
Dec. 21	Love	Isaiah 7:10-14



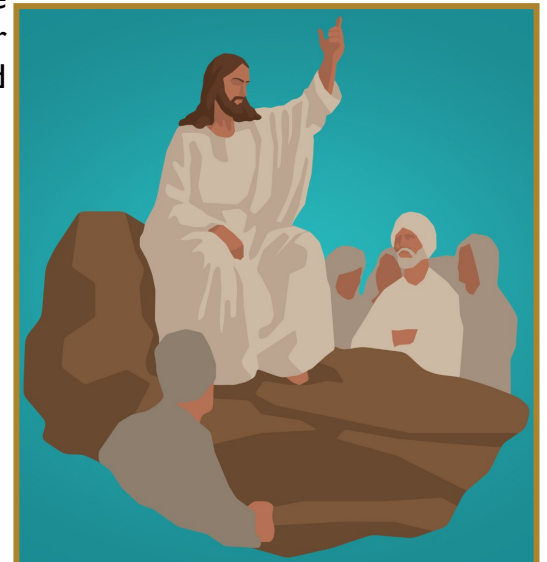
Bible Study: The Sermon on the Mount *continues*



“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.”

Matthew 5:1-2

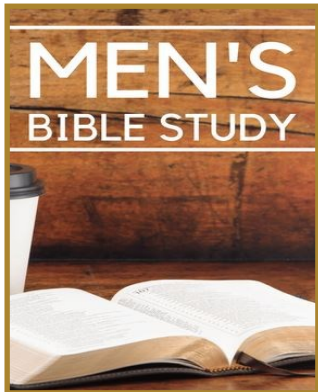
As we continue to walk through the Sermon on the Mount, we encounter three passages that are as relevant today as when Jesus first spoke them. In our anxious age Jesus encourages us to disarm worry and rest in His presence. He then gives the often quotes and frequently misunderstood command, “Judge not, that you be not judged”. Next, Jesus wants to ensure that we understand the heart of our Father in Heaven. All are invited to come.



DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY
10AM—FIRESIDE ROOM
6PM—FELLOWSHIP CENTER

December 3	Matthew 6:25-34
December 10	Matthew 7:1-7
December 17	Matthew 7:7-11
December 24 & 31	No Bible Study

Men's Bible Study **Men's Fellowship**



Men's Bible Study Group! Join us for our Men's Bible Study Group, **December 8 & 22 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room.** Together, we'll explore the New Testament and seek to apply its teachings to our daily lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Don Carillo at 480-694-3025 or carillofamily8@gmail.com. We would like to see our small but steady group grow and all are welcome to attend! Thanks, Don



Gentlemen: Just a friendly reminder that we'll be decorating our church inside and out this **Saturday, Nov. 29**, starting about **9:00 am**. It's a lot of work so we'll need all hands

on deck, and our ladies will be making delicious chili again for lunch. Our next breakfast meeting will be on **Saturday, Dec. 13**, in the Fellowship Center starting at **8:00 am**. Enjoy your Thanksgiving week and blessings to all.

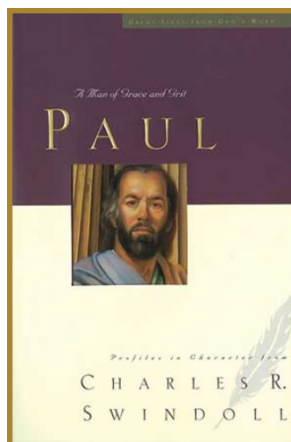
Bill Matty 815-282-6024 bbmatty67@gmail.com

Ladies' Drop-In **Women's Morning Bible Study**



**Every Tuesday | 10 AM
Fireside Room**

All ladies are invited to *drop-in* for fellowship, games, puzzles, and conversation.



**Thursday,
December 11,
9:30 AM
Fireside Room**

Please read Chapters 21 and 22 from our book Paul, a Man of Grace and Grit by Charles Swindoll.

We will discuss Paul's confinement in a Roman prison. He is undaunted. Incredibly, this will be our last meeting covering this book. We will be starting a new book in January: David, a Man of Passion and Destiny by Swindoll.

For information call Monique 336-382-8733.

Lunch & Lecture



**Saturday, December 13 & 27
12 PM | Fireside Room**

Series on Genesis
by Professor Gary Rendsburg, PHD
For any questions, you may contact Maria Berry 602-799-9982.

Out n' About

Out and About on **December 17th** will be at **Saddle Bronc Grill at noon.** Their address is **11056 N Saguaro.**

For reservations, please call:
Joyce Leo at 803-522-2889 or
Bonnie Matty at 815-260-5031



Support Our Troops | Donna Sims



Boy, this has really been a very busy month for our **Church Military Ministry**. First, the collection of the envelopes filled with handwritten notes is over. I will be doing the final steps within the next couple of weeks before being able to head to the Post Office. I can already visualize the looks

of happiness on faces and feelings of Christmas Blessings on all of our Church connected military as they open their Christmas card bulging with many handwritten notes. My personal thanks to all who were willing to take an envelope and write a note to each of our Church connected military members.

Second, the project of purchasing winter clothing for deployed military is just about finished. Items have been selected, sorted and are now stuffed in the trunk of my car to be delivered to Packages From Home in Glendale where the volunteers there will do the sorting, packaging and shipping of all our donations which included sweatpants, long-sleeved t-shirts, caps, gloves and neck scarves, along with a nice variety of toiletries, and snacks.

Next comes helping our local veterans, many homeless, with new and used donations, which will include a large selection of toiletries and snacks. These items will be added to the donations that have come in the last few weeks. My hope is to have Community Bridges (CBI) be able to schedule a pick-up just before Christmas. A perfect time of year to help as many veterans who are in need.

Thank you to all who have helped and are continuing to help with the needed donations. Please remember that our Veterans and Troops

Ministry is year-round, it never stops. We are always happy to see Church members and friends from our community placing items in our collection box, located in the Narthex on the East side, in the basket cart out front as you enter the Church and in the Church office. Thanks again for helping make our military ministry a continuing success.

Donna Sims,
Mission Committee



Book Review | Althea Halchuck



Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

Reign of Terror

“Generations ago, the American Indian Osage tribe was compelled to move, and not for the first time. White settlers pushed them off their Kansas land in the 1800s. They made their new home in a rocky, infertile area in northeast

Oklahoma in hopes that settlers would finally leave them alone. As it turned out, the land they had chosen was rich in oil, and in the early 20th century, members of the tribe became spectacularly wealthy. They bought cars and built mansions; they made so much oil money that the government began appointing white guardians to ‘help’ them spend it.” David Grann, 2017, NPR Interview

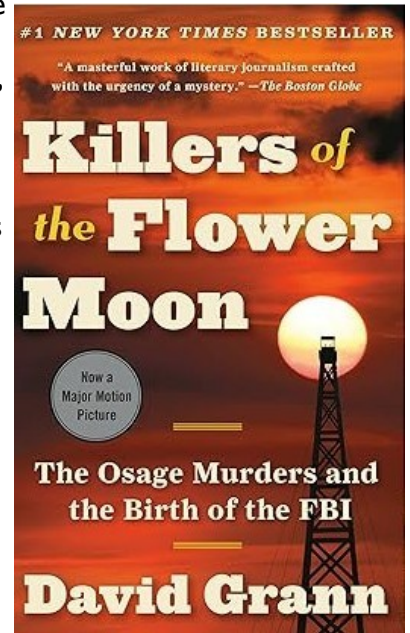
Guardianships and Headrights

The Osage people were deemed “incompetent” and assigned a non-Native lawyer, businessman, or politician as a financial manager. Guardians were empowered to approve or disapprove all purchases, regardless of their size and value. Guardianships without oversight were an invitation to steal, and

they used their power to create, Grann writes, “an elaborate criminal operation, in which various sectors of society were complicit.”

This nonfiction account of the murders of hundreds of members of the Osage tribe is a true crime saga that will shock, disgust, and fascinate. Many white people married an Osage, sometimes by force, becoming their guardians, and then killing them. One by one, the Osage are killed off, dying under

“mysterious circumstances” to gain their “headright” or their percentage of the oil profits. The book focuses on an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, and her family, who are the prime targets. Relatives are poisoned, shot, disappeared, or blown up, and the people investigating the suspected murders are murdered themselves. The book uncovers: Native American genocide, violence against women, children, and the elderly, discrimination, prejudice, racism, and paternalism against the Osage people, greed, theft, corruption, cronyism, conspiracy, lawlessness, and violence against people investigating the mounting deaths. It was aptly named, a reign of terror.



The FBI

Mollie appealed to the Department of Justice, and as the death toll rose, J. Edgar Hoover’s newly created FBI was sent to investigate. They put together an undercover team, including a Native American, and infiltrated the Osage region. Together with members of the Osage Nation, they exposed one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. However, the FBI primarily focused on the ringleaders of Mollie’s family murders. Due to a lack of resources and manpower, they ignored many other murders and crimes committed around the same time against other Osage members. “You start to try to trace the money ... and where the wealth went. And what you begin to discover is something even more horrifying than the bureau ever exposed.” Today, the Osage people are still suffering from crimes committed against their ancestors. Don’t miss this book!

Althea Halchuck | 11/4/25

Presby Pickins' 4th Season Soaring | Next Market December 6

Presby Pickins' Flea Market has become much more than a market — it's a community experience filled with shopping, food, music, and fun! Held on the first Saturday of each month (November through April, skipping January) from 8 AM to 2 PM. **You don't want to miss it!**

The 4th season kicked off on November 1st with a sold-out lot featuring 45+ vendors offering antiques, collectibles, home décor, clothing, jewelry, crafts, plants, and more. A record-setting crowd of shoppers enjoyed tunes by our very own FHPC troubadours and tasty bites from our local food truck partners.

December 6th's market—yet another sell out! There's something for everyone! BEE there! Visit www.fhpresbyterian.info/fleamarket for more information, or email ppfleamarket@gmail.com.



Our PresBee Picker spying a very special treasure!



Deb Fisher, John Scaggs, & Jim Lindau entertaining the crowd



The heart of Presby Pickins' - our volunteers!

Paige Productions All-Stars to Perform at Presby Pickins' | December 6



Paige Productions Youth Theater All-Stars will be performing shows at **Presby Pickins'** at **9:30 AM** and **11 AM**. This professional youth singing group represents the larger group of Paige Productions students and performs at events around Fountain Hills. They have performed at Chamber of Commerce meetings, Fountain View Village, Fountain Hills Post Accute Care, Holiday Market, Fountain Hills Farmer Market, & more.

Their performance is colorful, & lively and features kids ages 8 through 16. Their song and dance routines include songs from Broadway, Disney, Christmas & Beyond. *The show is fun for all ages.*

Stroll In The Glow | Saturday, December 6, 5pm - 8pm



Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church will participate in the **Dec. 7th Stroll in the Glow**. A manger scene (thanks to the help of Building and Grounds and Kristi Robinson and children), Christmas music by members of the Celebration Singers (led by music director Debbie Fisher), and live animals from Carter's Farm Mobile Petting Zoo will be featured at the church's spot on the Avenue of the Fountains.

Stroll in the Glow is sponsored by the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, and features the annual lighting of the holiday decorations on the Avenue. Time of the Saturday event is 5-8 p.m.

Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher



Merry Christmas!

I hope you all find the Peace that passeth all understanding wrapped around your heart through the season, and forevermore. We are given that gift, and we will hear, read, and sing through the Advent season the

scriptures telling us so.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the governments shall be upon His shoulders, And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

Blessings,

Debbie Fisher

Director of Music Ministries

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO

We will be focused on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, all pointing to the birth of Christ, as foretold.

You will hear singing, and ringing, and instruments complimenting the lyrics we all long to hear;

"He is born, the Divine Christ Child; raise your voices in joyful melody!"

Share your peaceful hearts with those in need. We are all children of God. Stay safe in your travels.



Extended Communion



Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is offering **Extended Communion** at the homes of interested congregants following the regular Communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Communion at home, simply call the church office at (480) 837-1763 and ask to be added to the Extended Communion list.

Please call no later than the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

A Deacon will call you a couple of days prior to the service to confirm that you still want to receive Communion on that Sunday, and an Elder, Deacon, or both will visit you following the regular 9 a.m. service to serve Communion.

—The FHPC Board of Deacons

Sharing Our Gifts



At FHPC, we are continually inspired by the ways our congregation shares their God-given gifts—our talents, time, and treasure—to advance God’s work and spread His love. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” Every act of generosity, no matter the size, enriches our church community and demonstrates our shared commitment to making a meaningful difference.

We want to hear your stories about how you or others are sharing these gifts. Whether it’s through volunteering, supporting church initiatives, or making an impact in the community, your experiences can inspire and uplift others. Please email your stories to office@fhpresby.org to be featured in our upcoming In Touch newsletter.

Celebrate with Flowers: Honor, Memorialize, and Cherish

Honor your loved ones or celebrate special occasions by dedicating flowers in the Sanctuary. Each week, beautiful arrangements are created and available for a fee of \$35, which can be taken home after Sunday Worship.

When you dedicate flowers to honor or memorialize someone, or to celebrate a significant event, your dedication will be announced during the Welcome portion of the service and included in The Weekly. To order flowers, simply sign up in the book located in the narthex or call the church office.

The \$35 fee covers the cost of flowers, which are thoughtfully purchased and arranged by our dedicated volunteers—no commercial florist could provide such generous support. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the service, allowing you to cherish these special moments.



December Birthdays

- 3-Dec Larry Roland
- 5-Dec Bob Simmons
- 8-Dec Bud Fuls
- 9-Dec Barbara Bowling
- 12-Dec Arlene Stewart
- 21-Dec Emerson Uphoff
- 23-Dec Jack Reynolds
- 25-Dec Edee Grider
- 26-Dec Ilene Berg



2025 Necrology

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Gerry Carroll
Evelyn Hranek

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Foundation



Are You Looking for a Way to Do Good?

The FHPC Foundation solicits, invests and subsequently disburses planned gifts from members and friends to ensure the future needs of the church and its ministries.

FHPC Foundation NEEDS your pledges, bequests, cash or check donations, endorsed stocks and bonds, IRA transfers, Qualified Minimum Distributions, real estate proceeds, trust fund designation, and why not tithe your insurance policy or estate???

Whatever you can give will be gratefully accepted. We can help you with the pledge form – call today!

Foundation Trustees

Matt Jefferson, Chairman	Mary Holtan	Roy Nickel
Linda Lull, Treasurer	Bill Matty	Susan Titus

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



Visit our Biblical Garden, located at the very heart of our campus. Before embarking on your tour, explore the fascinating variety of plants featured in the Garden.

Learn about their significance and historical context online at www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden or pick up a brochure in the office for more information.

Columbarium



The Columbarium provides a final resting place for the mortal remains of members and friends. Along with the urn niches, there is a Wall of Remembrance, a waterfall and memorial benches, providing a lovely place for prayer and meditation. It is managed by the Columbarium Trustees, a committee of our church corporation. A trust fund insures proper maintenance and perpetual care of the area.

U.S. Military Medallions are available for Veterans' columbarium niches. Please contact the church office for more information.



Holiday Fun!

Who Said That?

Directions: Match the quotation with the person who said it. Write the number of the correct quotation in the circle beside each person's name.

1. "I have a dream ..."
2. "Give me liberty or give me death."
3. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."
4. "Three may keep a secret, if two are dead."
5. "It ain't over 'til it's over."
6. "It has been my experience that people who have few vices have very few virtues."
7. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."
8. "I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right."

- Yogi Berra
- Benjamin Franklin
- Albert Einstein
- Abraham Lincoln
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- John F. Kennedy
- Patrick Henry
- Neil Armstrong

Christmas Trivia

Directions: Find the answers to the six categories in the group of words below.

1. Santa's reindeer	
2. Things that are alive in the carol "The 12 Days of Christmas"	
3. Names, according to myth, of the giver of Christmas gifts	
4. Gifts of the Magi	
5. Fanciful Christmas snowman	
6. Christmas plants	

Santa Claus					
Calling birds	Kris Kringle	Comet	Partridge	Rudolph	French hens
Frankincense	Dasher	Saint Nicholas	Pelznickel	Myrrh	Pipers
Frosty	Holly	Prancer	Ivy	Geese	Blitzen
Father Christmas	Swans	Poinsettia	Vixen	Mistletoe	Gold



Answers: 1. Comet, Rudolph, Dasher, Prancer, Blitzen, Vixen; 2. French hens, partridge, geese, swan, calling birds, pipers; 3. Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Pelznickel; 4. myrrh, frankincense, gold; 5. Frosty; 6. poinsettia, holly, ivy, mistletoe.

Poinsettia Orders

Members and friends of FHPC once again have the opportunity to purchase poinsettias for display during our CHRISTMAS EVE worship service, either to honor a loved one or to commemorate a special event. This holiday tradition creates the beautiful chancel display we all enjoy. Poinsettias are available for **\$15 each**. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate with your payment (or bring it to the office). Mark your check "Poinsettia" on the memo line. All orders must be placed by **December 5, 2025**. Please make your check payable to *Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church*.



New Leadership Updates



Congratulations to Our Newly Elected Leaders!

We are thrilled to announce that **MaryAnn O'Connor** has been elected as our new **Clerk of Session**. In addition, we celebrate the election of **Larry Cole**, **Dean Preising**, and **Melinda Stanton** as **Elders**, and **Terri Schmidt**, **Barbara Hoverland**, and **Monique Reynolds** as **Deacons**. We give thanks for their willingness to serve and invite you to join us in praying for these dedicated leaders as they step into their new roles, guiding and supporting our church family with faith and grace.

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 News-feed.



YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/@fhpresbyterianchurch



View Sunday worship here under "Live." Subscribe to our Channel to receive notifications of upcoming LIVE services.



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Friday – Sunday: Closed
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