



Maryann O'Connor | Clerk of Session—Music & Worship



As we made the journey through Easter season, the Worship and Music Committee was quietly at work behind the scenes - helping to create an atmosphere that reflects the depth, beauty, and meaning of the holy time.

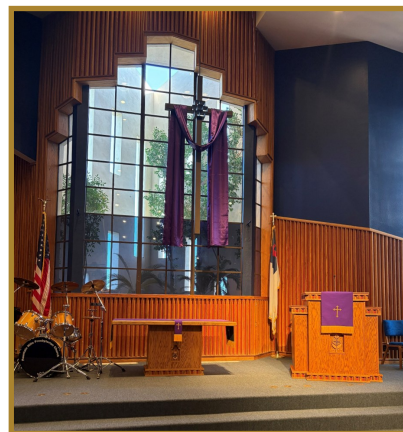
This year we decided to do something different in our sanctuary. Rather than carrying the huge cross in and laying it on the chancel we decided to adorn our cross that is already hanging up. It also helped our choir with leaving the drum set up for their music program.

Many may not realize the care, coordination, and physical effort that go into preparing our sanctuary. One of the most visible symbols of the season, the Cross, which raises high above us, changing its drapery was no small



task. Throughout Lent and Easter, it was carefully adorned three different times, each change reflecting the progression of the story: from solemn reflection, to sacrifice, to the joy and triumph of the resurrection. Each transition required planning, teamwork, and yes - a bit of courage when working at such heights.

Beyond the Cross, the sanctuary itself was transformed. Banners are selected and placed to align with the liturgical season, flowers are thoughtfully arranged to bring life and color



to our worship space, and every detail was considered to enhance the experience of those who gather for worship.

What may appear effortless on Sunday mornings is the result of many Hands and Hearts working together throughout the weeks. Members of the committee give generously of their time - often quietly and without recognition - to ensure that our worship



OUR STAFF

Pastor Jim Rizer
pastorjim@fhpresby.org

Eric Williamson
office@fhpresby.org

Linda Lull
Treasurer

Debbie Fisher
Director of Music

Dorothy Parris Pianist

Frank DeGroot
Custodian

CHURCH SESSION

MaryAnn O'Connor
Clerk of Session

Phylliss Kern | Stewardship
Sandi Thompson | Connect
Brendan Wagner | Mission
Class of 2026

MaryAnn O'Connor |
Worship & Music
Class of 2027

Larry Cole | B&G
Dean Preising |
Administration
Class of 2028

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Suzanne Ottoson
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Focus on Finance | 2026

March Income	\$ 44,055	Budget	\$ 37,949
March Expenses	\$ 37,932	Budget	\$ 38,873
YTD Income	\$ 105,903	YTD Budget	\$ 113,847
YTD Expense	\$ 99,549	YTD Budget	\$ 116,618

Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer



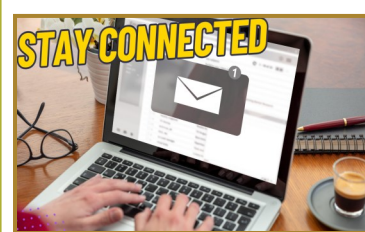
We are in a positive position for the first quarter of 2026. There were no unusual expenditures in the month of March. We continue to build the capital reserve account to replace the funds used to install the air conditioners in the Sanctuary, and we need to remain prepared for any anticipated summer storms. Thank you for keeping up with your pledges and contributions for the ministry, missions, and operations of FHPC.

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!

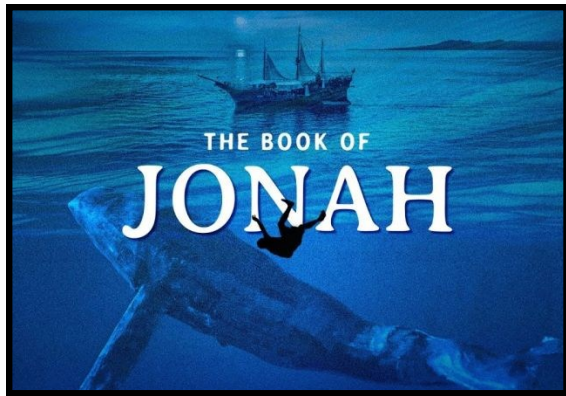
Make sure you're getting our latest news and updates. Subscribe to our email list at: www.fhpresbyterian.info or contact the church office at 480-837-1763 or office@fhpresby.org.



Love God – Love People – Make Disciples



May Weekly Bible Study



A Bible Study on the Book of Jonah will continue through May. This account of a reluctant prophet, a foreign people, and the God of grace has much to teach us. Come rediscover the depth of this account which is so much more than a fish story.

BIBLE STUDIES are held on **Wednesdays at 10am in the Fireside Room & 6pm in the Fellowship Center.**

May Church Schedule

Our worship schedule for May will be:

- 5/3/26** **UNDERSTANDING
RESURRECTION**
1 Corinthians 15:35-58
Communion
- 5/10/26** **THE IDENTITY WE NEED**
John 1:9-14
Fellowship Hour Presentation
by Paige Productions
- 5/17/26** **THE RESUME THAT MATTERS**
Philippians 3:3-11
- 5/24/26** **THE CONVICTING SPIRIT**
John 16:4b-14
Pentecost-Wear Red
- 5/31/26** **THIS IS A TEST**
Genesis 22:1-13



Pastor's Pen | Jim Rizer

As a child you probably did the finger play rhyme; “This is the church, this is the steeple,”. Recently I discovered a version with a second stanza:

This is the church, this is the steeple, open the doors, here's all the people. / Close the doors, listen to them pray, open the doors, they all walk away.

While this is nostalgic and a cute rhyme, this picture of the church is deeply flawed. In the New Testament word church never describes a building. In fact, it was some time before the early church even had a building, other than homes, to consistently gather in. The word most often translated as church is the Greek word “ekklesia”, meaning “called-out assembly” or “congregation.” Both suggested translations point to the people, those “called out of darkness and brought into His marvelous light.” This reminds us that buildings are a place for the people to gather or a tool for ministry.

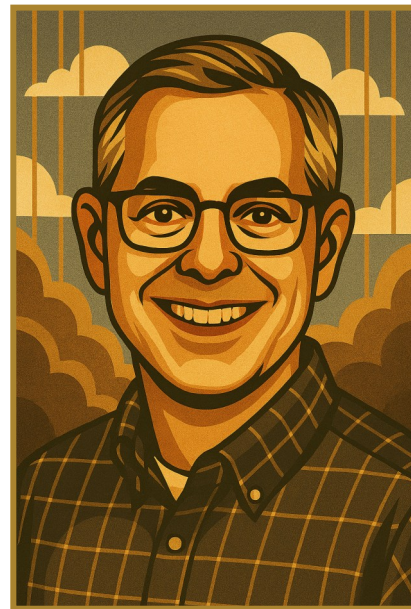
Further the rhyme gives a warped view of the purpose and mission of the church. We gather for prayer and they walk away. While prayer is important and one of the things that we do in worship, this suggests that the mission of the church is just a Sunday morning, one-hour endeavor.

In every era the church wrestles with remembering and living into the core calling. CS Lewis addressed this in Mere Christianity writing, “the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.”

This quote is a sobering reminder of the call to go and make disciples of all nations and the needed focus on Jesus. This quote causes us to reflect on the alternate, lesser things that we, at times, have thought the purpose and mission of the church is. Individually and corporately, it is good to remember the true reason that Christ builds His church.

This is the building, this is the steeple, open the doors, the church is the people. / Save by His grace, at a great cost, following Jesus, seeking the lost.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Jim



Music & Worship Cover Article (continued...)

environment reflects the glory and hope of each liturgical season

Our goal is simple: to create a space where each person who enters will feel the significance of the season, encounter God's presence, and be drawn deeply into worship.

As you sat in the sanctuary this Easter season, we hope you took a moment to notice all of these details - the colors, the symbols, the beauty- and remember the care and devotion that went into preparing them. More importantly, may it point us all to the greater truth we did celebrate: Christ has risen, and through Him, all things are made new.

Clerk's Corner | Maryann O'Connor



As we move into the month of May, things feel a little quieter after the fullness of Easter. I have found myself thinking more about what it really means to follow Christ day to day, not in the big moments but in the ordinary ones.

Discipleship takes center stage. For me discipleship has been less about having it all figured out and more about showing up— trying to be a little more patient, a little more present, a little more willing to listen, some days that comes easier than others.

What I have come to appreciate more and more is that discipleship isn't something we do alone. It happens in community. It happens in the conversations we have before and after service, in the way we support one another, and even in how we navigate having the moments that aren't always easy.

Session has been spending time thinking and learning how we continue to grow in this together, not just as individuals, but as a church family, faithfully. Each of us has a role to play by; small groups, service opportunities, worship, or simply reaching out to someone who may need encouragement.

As we head into the next few months, maybe discipleship doesn't have to feel like something big or overwhelming. Let's just take one small step— reaching out to someone, spending a few extra minutes in prayer, or simply being more aware of how we show up for each other.

As Clerk of Session, I am continually encouraged by the ways I see this lived out in our congregation, in quiet acts of service, faithfulness behind the scenes, and a genuine desire to help our church and community.

Thank you for being part of this community and the ways you contribute to the life of this church. Your presence, your service, and your faithfulness matter more than you know.

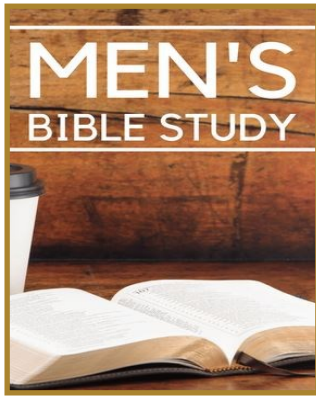
Grace and Peace
Maryann O'Connor
Clerk of Session



On **May 10th**, following Worship, **Paige Productions** will perform for the **Mothers Day Celebration** in Fellowship Center. Hilltop Hospitality will provide the usual refreshments and if Congregants wish to provide anything they are welcome to do so. Paige Productions are invited to share in the refreshments also.

- Hilltop Hospitality is looking forward to Mother's Day with Paige Productions.

Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study Group! Join us for our Men's Bible Study Group, **May 18 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.

Ladies' Drop-In



**Every Tuesday | 10 AM
Fireside Room**

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

Lunch & Lecture



**Saturday, May 9 & 23
12 PM | Fireside Room**

Tocqueville and the American Experiment by Prof. William R. Cook. For any questions, you may contact Maria Berry 602-799-9982.

Out n' About

Out and About will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 20th**, at **noon** at **Hao Restaurant** at **11849 North Saguaro Blvd.**

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

Men's Fellowship

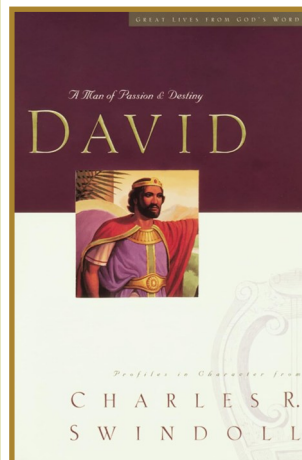


Gentlemen: Our next and last breakfast meeting before our summer recess will be on **Saturday, May 9**, at **Phil's Filling Station**, starting at

8:30 am. Please come for some good fellowship and to say adios to our winter visitors. Thanks to all men who participated and helped with our monthly meetings, Presby Pickins, the church picnic, Christmas decorating, our Sweetheart Brunch, and Men's Sunday. Well done guys and much appreciated. I'll send out a reminder next weekend for the meeting at Phil's on **May 9** and ask for RSVP's. Blessings to all.

- Blessings to all, Bill Matty 815-282-6024

Women's Morning Bible Study



The Women's Morning Bible Study will be held one week earlier than usual in May. We will meet on **Thursday May 7 at 9:30 AM** in the Fireside Room. Please read Chapters 9 through 11 in our book David a Man of Passion and Destiny by Charles Swindoll. We will discuss Nabal and Abigail, pessimism and Saul's death.

For information call Monique 336-382-8733.

Hao Restaurant

Support Our Troops | Donna Sims



Many thanks to all of you who wrote a personal Easter note to be included in the Easter Cards going to our Church-connected military members. A total of 48 notes were inside each card and I know how extremely happy the recipients were to receive them.

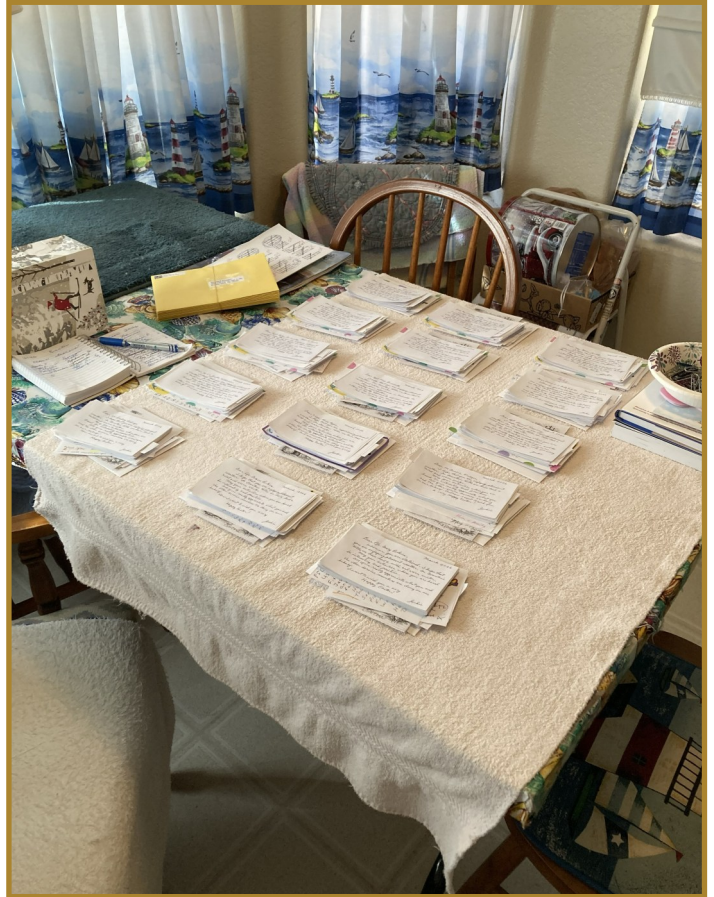
They were mailed on time too which was

not an easy accomplishment. Would you believe I am already working on updated information for our Christmas Cards? Well, I am.

As you are well aware, our warmer summer months are now fast approaching and it will only get warmer, so I am reminding all to donate items of clothing for our local Veterans who find themselves in need, to remember to donate short sleeved t-shirts, cargo pants, shorts, shoes, hats, and lap blankets/mats. Most of all toiletries are always desperately needed. I hope to be able to arrange for a pick-up from Community Bridges (CBI) within the next few weeks. I feel we are just about $\frac{3}{4}$ ready to do so.

Please remember our military ministry is year-round, it never stops. The Mission Committee is 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 or in the Church office. Our Veterans and Troops thank you for helping make our military ministry a continuing success. THANK YOU.

Donna Sims,
Mission Committee



Book Review | Althea Halchuck



AN ODE TO GREAT LIBRARIES, INCLUDING FHPC'S

Hometown Library

I have long been an admirer of libraries. As a kid, I spent many lazy summer afternoons browsing the dusty shelves, looking for any book that would carry me away into a world of adventure. Nancy Drew mysteries were a particular favorite. These sojourns instilled in me a reverence and love for any and all libraries. My hometown library, Bennett Public Library, was built in 1881 by Mrs. Eleanor Bennett in memory of her late husband Joshua. It was Victorian style, with a brick exterior, squeaky wood floors, mahogany paneling, and stained-glass windows. The



single-story building housed a main library along with two small wings. One wing was the children's section. The other wing was the "adults only" area. The entry to this mysterious room was barred by a saloon-style swinging door, and the librarian, an "older" woman who kept careful watch lest anyone under age 18 try to sneak past her into the forbidden zone. The building

stands empty as a memorial to a bygone era, replaced by a modern library.

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Carnegie Libraries

Many of our members grew up with Andrew Carnegie libraries. Carnegie funded 2,509 libraries between 1883 and 1929, transforming public access to knowledge with over \$60 million in donations (valued at \$2 billion today). Primarily located in the US (1,689), UK/Ireland (660), and Canada (125), these libraries were built on a matching-grant basis, requiring towns to provide land and tax support, a model fostering civic responsibility. Carnegie popularized the "open shelf" system, allowing patrons to browse books themselves, replacing the older "closed-stack" system where librarians retrieved items. By the time the last grant was made, he had funded the construction of nearly half of the 3,500 libraries in the United States. (Wikipedia)

FHPC Library

While not a Carnegie design, we have a unique and well-stocked library at FHPC. Barbara Oakeson is the chief



Library Footnotes | Althea Halchuck

librarian, along with Carol Fuls and me. Included are many famous authors, past and present, as well as theologians. Our collection of nearly 2,000 books includes many fine books, DVDs, and magazines.

Our Collection Genres:

Bible Studies
Devotionals
Theology
Fiction and non-fiction
Classic Literature
Biographies
Presbyterian Women's Reading List
Local authors and characters
Arizona and Native American literature
Christian magazines
Children & Teens

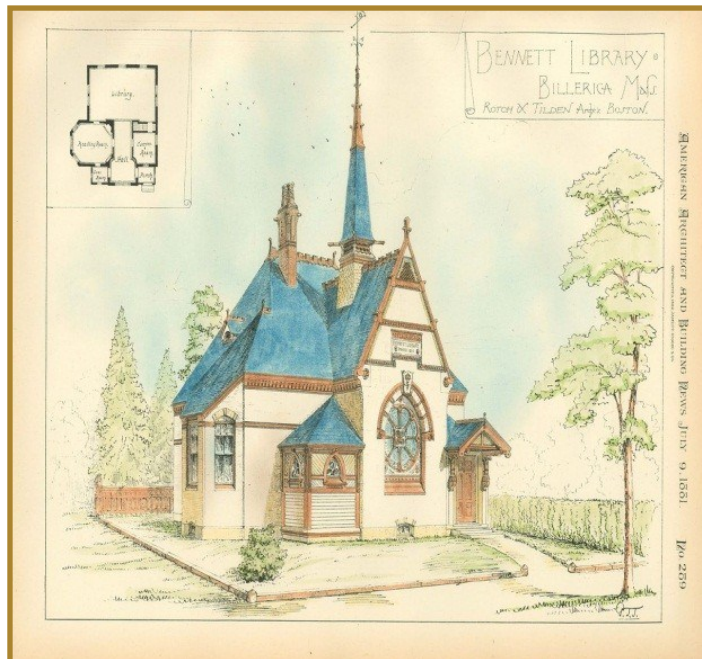
It's easy to check out a book:

Remove the card from the pocket in front of the book
Sign your name and check out date
If you are not a church member, include your phone#
Place card in the BLUE "Book Cards File Box" on desk
Please return to the "Book Return Box" on the side of the desk within 3 weeks

Location:

The library is located in the Education Building on the south side of the campus, adjacent to the playground.

Hours:



The library is self-serve, and the easiest way to gain access is to get a key from the FHPC office: **Monday-Thursday, 9:00 – 3:00. (June-August, 9:00 – 2:00).** Call church office: 480-837-1763.



Have you read a good book lately?

Althea Halchuck

4/15/2026

Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher



It sure is good to see us move into our month of May with it's early sunrises drawing everyone out to get their walk, ride or run in, and seeing how the desert wakes up.

Some folks may sit outside early, as the birds start singing their beautiful melodic tones, leading us into listening. We aren't forced. That

would be a different experience, for sure.

I love being drawn in by the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and the birds. It stimulates my grateful praise to God. Like in scripture, I find contentment. Like in music, I find peace and contentment, especially when music is pointing us toward the cross, toward the Glory of God, His love, mercy, forgiveness, trust, and His Risen Son. It's beautiful.

Many of you know I teach Early Childhood through 8th grade music, and recently, as the fourth and fifth grades prepare for a yearly 2 night sleepover trip which takes them into the Northern part of Arizona, where they hike, zip-line, etc., these 2 girls popped into my class on their way off campus, and mentioned how they have never been away from their parents on a sleepover.

The one said "it's kind of scary, I am taking my bible with me." The other girl said she was going to, as well.

Then they both asked me, "Are You a Christian?", to which I replied in the affirmative, and I agreed that I would take my bible, too!

There was a certain look on all our eyes as we had this unified moment of visual engagement, brief and beautiful. The kids are on their trip, confident that God has them in the palm of their hand.

Now our church family separates for awhile, back to families and other churches, to early sunrises and later sunsets.

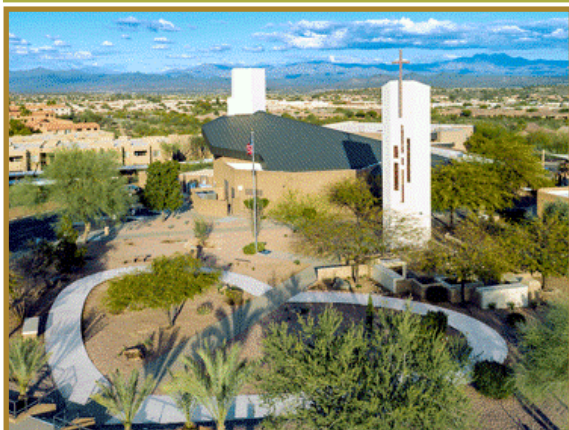
We are led by Spirit of God. Until we meet again, please know you are loved here, at our little particular church in the desert.

We will see you when we see you. Until then, We will keep the music flowing through the Sanctuary.

"Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord, the glory due unto His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:1-2

Debbie Fisher
Director of Music Ministries
Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO

Biblical Garden



Visit our Biblical Garden, a peaceful sanctuary located at the heart of our campus.

Before beginning your tour, take a moment to discover the remarkable variety of plants featured throughout the Garden. Each one has been carefully selected for its biblical significance and deep historical roots.

Learn more about their stories and symbolism online at www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden, or pick up a beautifully printed brochure in the office to enrich your visit even further.

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
Linda Lull, Treasurer

Mary Holtan
Bill Matty

Roy Nickel
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

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.



May Birthdays



1-May Phyliss Kern
1-May Bill Matty
2-May Mike Owens
3-May James Lindau
3-May Glenn Olinger
10-May Bob Lull
16-May James Stewart
17-May Matt Botsford

17-May Beverly Watters
19-May Michael Stanton
20-May Linda Covault
22-May Gail Botsford
27-May Sue Anderson
31-May Frank DeGroot



Mission Messages

“Showing God's Love By Giving and Doing”

Mission Committee Sponsored Activities in April

Reigning Grace

A motion was made and approved to donate \$3,000 to Reigning Grace for scholarships. Brendan shared that a representative had previously presented the organization’s needs to the Men’s Fellowship group, which has also committed to donating \$500.

Community House

The next Community House meals will be served on June 29, with Debbie Olson leading, and on August 31, with Kim Caputo heading the effort. At this time, a volunteer is needed to lead the meal on November 30. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Connect Desk for those

interested in volunteering or taking the lead for that date.

The committee also decided to organize a backpack drive to support individuals in need at the June Community Meal. Gently used backpacks are welcome. A flyer will be included in the bulletin to encourage volunteers to assist with the Community Meals and to promote the backpack drive.

Donna Sims

Terri Schmidt informed the committee that Donna Sims’ daughter lost everything in a house fire last week. She was able to safely rescue her horse and three dogs. The committee approved a \$1,000 donation to help with immediate needs.

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.



© 2025 **In Touch** is a monthly publication of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church. Articles should be submitted to news@fhpresby.org no later than the **15th** of the month prior to publication. Editors: Eric Williamson & Monique Reynolds



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Friday – Sunday: Closed
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