

JULY/AUGUST 2018

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THE SPIRE



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MEL

*I*ncredible changes have taken place in the past hundred years—more than at any time in recorded history. At a Milwaukee post office, a woman complained to the clerk that a Pony Express rider could get a letter from Milwaukee to St. Louis in two days and now it takes five. “I’d like to know why?” she scoffed. The clerk replied without hesitation, “Please remember that the horses are a lot older now!”

Yes, things have changed since 2008 when I was with you last. Ten years ago about 139 million smartphones were sold; today over 1.5 billion have hit the market. Lots of people have discarded their computers and so all their work on their phones which, again, wasn’t the case ten years ago. Back in 2008, Facebook was just taking off, not many of us were using it. Now there’s Snapchat, an app invented to send photos that disappear within 10 seconds! Ten years ago most of us used paper maps, today it’s a navigating device or app of some kind. Uber and Lyft hadn’t been thought of, let alone driverless cars. Who would have thought that web dating sites would ever become popular? In the summer of 2008 we were going the one of the most disruptive financial crunches in our nation’s history. Today, most of us have forgotten about it.

The adage “nothing is certain but death and taxes” is only partly true. “Change” needs to be added to this statement and probably put first. Frankly, there are some changes I don’t like but there’s nothing I can do about it.

There have been changes in my family since 2005 when I was here the first time. My son, Stephen married Katrina right here at First UMC on July 1st, 2006. Their son Logan came along about a year later and then was followed by his brother, Tristan, two years later. My son, Philip, married Kristen in 2003 and their son Gabriel was born three years later. But after leaving First UMC, two more granddaughters came along: Abigail and Alexis. Then in 2013 my daughter, Kristyna married Louis and three years later Ashlyn was born. So, since 2008, five more people came into my family for a total of 13. For those who are into math, we grew 38.46%!



And so here we are; being together some ten years later and although I know things have changed, I’m looking forward to reacquainting myself with those who were present ten years ago as well as to start new relationships with those who have come while I was on another journey. I’m reminded of Isaiah’s words, “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, I will take hold of your hand...” (42:6) Our God created change to be a part of life, the good news is that we can go hand in hand together with guidance from the God who is beyond all change.

Mel (Miloslav) Munchinsky
June 2018

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

M-TH:

9–2 pm

PH: 480-969-5577

Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a direct debit program where your contribution is debited automatically from your checking or savings account, either weekly or monthly. This is an easy way to fulfill your stewardship commitment, even when you are unable to attend church. You can pick up an authorization form in the church office, and talk to Lynn Adams for further details.

CHECK OUT our new option to give with a debit/credit card on our website at firstchurchofmesa.com

SPRC

Dear Friends:

It appears that the Desert Southwest cabinet has found itself with a number of retirements and appointment changes requiring several interim appointments across our annual conference. First Mesa has not been singled out for this "interim appointment". First UMC Phoenix has also been assigned an interim appointment.

This interim appointment reflects the intention of the Bishop to fill our position with exactly the right person to meet the specific needs of FUMC. No hasty appointments just to get the job done.

The Discipline of the United Methodist Church defines an "Interim appointment" as being for a specific length of time, established in advance." The appointment of Rev. Munchinsky a retired elder, will allow the cabinet and our leadership to assess our needs and give the cabinet additional time to find an appointment that fits our culture, our values, and our goals for ministry.

The members of SPRC are committed to making this appointment successful both for Pastor Mel and the congregation.

The dictionary defines an interim as "a temporary or provisional arrangement." Since this request of Rev Munchinsky was a surprise to him, as well as us, he has prior commitments that must be fulfilled. Therefore, Mel will be taking unpaid leave the first & second Sunday in July, the month of August, and the first Sunday in September. We have lined up some excellent guest speakers for the time that he will be gone. The preaching schedule will be listed in your bulletin.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, or contact me directly. My contact information is in your church directory. We are ready to listen and work hard to facilitate and answer questions at any time.

Sandra Lackore
Chair of Staff Parish Relations

We are Hiring!

Lynn Adams, our Financial & Membership Secretary, has given his notice of leaving the position effective August 8th. We thank Lynn for his dedicated service to First Church and wish him the best.

Therefore, we are now accepting applications for this position. The Financial & Membership Secretary coordinates the accounting of all giving, keeps member records, prepares reports, and is responsible for the coordination and function of the columbarium and memorials. The candidate must be experienced in record keeping, be detail-oriented and must be proficient in MS Excel, Word & Outlook. Must be trustworthy, able to keep information confidential, and pass a background check.

Applications may be obtained from the church office. Resumes and/or questions may be emailed to:

secretary@firstchurchofmesa.com

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Fry's Rewards

Please register for the rewards program to benefit First Church. Contact Peggy at 602-510-2088 or see her in church if you need help registering or have questions. This does not affect other rewards such as fuel.

Thank you!

We "donut" have the words to say how grateful we are for the past four years we have had to share and grow with you. The donut party was fun and a reminder how we enjoy being in the company of each other. For all your kind words, special gifts both private and from the congregation, our lives are forever impacted from serving as your pastor. We will never forget how Rebecca & I met, fell in love, got married, shared in the birth and baptism of Alexandria along with all the various milestones and life-markers we have had with our immediate and extended family of some fifty years at First Church. We celebrate Pastor Mel's return and look forward to hearing about the excitement of ministry you'll do under his leadership and for all who are to come afterward. We wish you all well and pray for God's continued blessings. You have blessed us and we are thankful.

The Rennicks

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vacation Bible School

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. **July 9–13th** from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. A free dinner will be served every evening at 5:00 pm. Children age 3 to those entering 5th grade are invited to join the adventure. Preschool children must be potty-trained. Incoming 6th graders and up can volunteer as crew leaders and station assistants.

Registrations are now open online at

vbspro.events/p/firstchurchmesa

We need adult and youth volunteers to make VBS a success. If you are able to help, volunteer registration is available on this same link or you can contact Nicholle Hansen at the church office. If volunteers have children under the age of 3, nursery care can be arranged.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Schedule of Events

All events take place Sundays nights from 5 to 7 p.m. in the FLC and include a meal unless otherwise noted.

Nicholle Hansen, Youth Director
youth@firstchurchofmesa.com

July 1st Volleyball

July 4th **No Volleyball** Happy 4th of July!

July 8th VBS Volunteer meeting and Set Up **11:30 am-1:30 pm**

Volunteer at VBS July 9-13th

July 15th Video Game Night

July 22nd Pool Party at the Schreibers

July 27-28 Volleyball Tournament (Times to be announced)

July 29th Volleyball Dance @ Gilbert UMC 5-7pm

Mission Trip Photos



Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletins /
Announcements

Wednesday Noon

Spire Deadline

All articles to be submitted to the church office no later than

August 10th

(Holidays and vacations may advance or delay these deadlines by a day or two.)



Flowers

To place flowers on the Lord's Table in honor or memory of someone special contact the Church Office at 480-969-5577

Continuing Our Relationship Everyday

CORE

Wednesday night C.O.R.E. activities will resume on August 22nd.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume on September 12th.

OUR VISION

We strive to reach out to the community through:

- *A ministry of continuous spiritual growth;*
- *A ministry with children, youth, and families in all their diversity, and;*
- *A ministry of music and the arts.*

Now Streaming Live!

You can now watch the worship service live:

www.LiveStream.com/FirstChurchMesa

Visit firstchurchofmesa.com and start reaching out electronically to friends, family, and those who are looking for God!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

07/01 Dauterman, Katherine
 07/01 Tinsley, Kim
 07/04 Scott, Joanne
 07/05 Washington, Angela
 07/06 Ahland, Anne
 07/06 Hansen, Julianne
 07/07 Brotemarkle, Jalynn
 07/09 Chu, Claire
 07/09 Leathers, Robert
 07/10 Kuck, Fran
 07/10 Tapaatoutai, Kathryn
 07/12 Florio, Katie
 07/13 Perry, Meaghan
 07/13 Placko, Seth
 07/13 Richgels, Tom
 07/14 Cartwright-Standage, Mary
 07/16 Delgadillo, Daniel
 07/16 Jones, Patricia
 07/17 Friederich, Shirley
 07/17 Kerr, Yvonne
 07/17 Snodgrass, Richard
 07/20 Aguirre, Robert
 07/20 Bunning, Janice
 07/20 Elliott, Tiffany
 07/20 Elson, Nadine
 07/21 Breedlove, Steven
 07/21 Mozurkewich, Katie
 07/21 Sikalu, Feonisa
 07/21 Zwald, Carla
 07/23 Lassen, JoAnn
 07/23 Smith, Diana
 07/23 Tay, Katie
 07/25 Leonard, James
 07/25 Smith, Rick
 07/26 Chapman, Elsie
 07/27 Carbone, Ceci

07/28 Rizzo, David
 07/29 Cates, Doris

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/07 Bunning, Shelley & Jerry
 07/08 Warden, Jim & Marilyn
 07/14 Harris, Jean & Jeff
 07/15 Tongring, Laura & James
 07/20 Parker, Wendy & Rick
 07/21 Hansen, Nicholle & Colby
 07/22 Schatz, Mary & Virgil
 07/24 Garrison, Iva Lee & Jim

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/01 Schatz, Virgil
 08/02 Mitchell, Kathy
 08/02 Thompson, Tracy
 08/03 Dingle, Vicky
 08/03 Jordan, Alison
 08/03 Mason, Melody
 08/03 Zehring, Jillain
 08/04 Robinson, Alijah
 08/05 Sikalu, Taiuela
 08/06 Fathauer, Max
 08/06 Portis, Jr., Joseph
 08/06 Shaw, Pat
 08/07 Johnston, Dorothy
 08/09 Gorin, Samantha
 08/11 Hill, Adam
 08/11 Mehan, Jonathan
 08/11 Richgels, Cheryl
 08/11 Rittenhouse, Paul
 08/12 Royer, Ryan

Happy Birthday!



08/14 Backer, Pauline
 08/14 Hikida, Cynthia
 08/15 Neilly, Kayden
 08/15 Woodcock, Greg
 08/16 Royer, Tina
 08/18 Fedt, Judy
 08/18 Gamble, Eutie
 08/18 Rennick, Rebecca
 08/19 Brune, Charlotte
 08/19 Haines, Dale
 08/19 Johnston, Connie
 08/20 Scarano, Elmira
 08/20 Schreiber, Adele
 08/21 Jordan, Claire
 08/23 Jordan, Julia
 08/24 Schreiber, Corrie
 08/24 Tripoli, Amanda
 08/25 Miller, Linda
 08/26 Chapman, Steve
 08/26 Heath, Randal
 08/26 Morgan, Doug
 08/27 Thompson, Scott
 08/28 Price, Suzan
 08/29 Fickett, Olivia
 08/29 Fluhr, Irene
 08/29 Sellers, Skyler
 08/29 Valenzuela, Amber
 08/30 Garrison, Ivan Lee
 08/30 Jordan, Clark
 08/30 Mozurkewich, Paul

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/04 Harker, Jo Anne & Tom
 08/12 Haines, Darla & Dale
 08/13 Hakaumotu, Lima & Fituilea
 08/20 Gorin, Janet & Myles
 08/20 McTevia, Dick & Al Ogawa
 08/26 Scott, Joanne & Douglas
 08/29 Clute, Frances & Robert

Congratulations

to Asa Holly

On his ordination

June 16, 2018



Save the date:

October 5-7

All Church Camp



Congrats to all
 our birthdays
 & anniversaries!

If your name is not on our list (or if you know of someone who should be), please call the church office so we may update our information. We truly do not mean to leave anyone out.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE SPIRE,
15 E. 1st Ave., Mesa AZ 85210

DATED MATERIAL– DO NOT DELAY



Historic Church
modern message

Pastors:

Rev. Mel Munchinsky

Rev. Dr. Bob Mitchell

Rev. Cecil Lackore - Pastor Emeritus

www.firstchurchofmesa.com

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THE SPIRE

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The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is August 10, 2018

The Spire Newsletter Team

Editors & Printers: Katie Mozurkewich & Linda Phillips

Assemblers: Irene Risser, Jan MacCarthy, & Margaret Desenberg

Editorial Policies: The mission of *The Spire* is to be one communication source for the First United Methodist Church of Mesa. Other communication sources include e-mails, the Sunday church bulletins and verbal announcements made at services or other official meetings. Chairpersons of Boards and Committees, coordinators, members and friends of First UMC may submit announcements, information or items of interest that relate to the mission of the church.

The Editor shall reserve the right to either accept or reject articles, to edit for space, grammar and accuracy. Currently, the Spire is being published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles are published both in this newsletter and weekly bulletins.

