

SEPTEMBER 2018

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- Altar flowers
- Church calendar

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THE SPIRE



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MEL

“F inally, I’m home!” Is this slang or an idiom? After teaching at a lot of English camps in Central Europe, I’ve become more conscious of English idioms since my students often looked puzzled whenever I used one. It’s rather interesting that we say “I’m home,” but don’t say “I’m office,” or “I’m restaurant!” Perhaps the reason why we say, “I’m home” is because it is a place which is uniquely created by each of us. There is a sense of belonging and relationships. However, when we think of an office, things are different even though we might have created such a space. It’s understood to have both a private and public face where “work” gets done - whatever that might be. The thing is that even when we leave home, we often remind ourselves that “home is where the heart is.” It can be a space, but it is much more than that.

Before I left home in early August, requests already came my way asking about a presentation about the *United Methodist Volunteers in Mission* trip to Russia/ Czech Republic and England. I expect that two or three such presentations will be made. My objective in doing so is not only to present a travelogue but also to expose us to the challenges and joys of mission work in those countries as well as others. As a Partnership Coordinator for Eurasia (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova), I feel very privileged to be engaged in United Methodist work in this part of the world. There’s a lot which I’ve learned the hard way and a lot which I still don’t know. For example, I learned that Americans are very task-oriented, whereas Slavic cultures, on average, value the cultivation of relationships much more highly than completing a given job by a given date. So, is there a need to blend the goal orientation of Americans with the Eurasian emphasis on personal connections? I believe we can learn from one another’s strengths and in so doing become the persons which God intended us to be.

With September, there comes a long “to do” list. We come back from the summer to settle “back home,” whether it’s the choir, bible study or fellowship group. The staff is evaluating our Wednesday evening programming along with other possibilities. I’m anticipating the fall months and I invite you to join me in conversation about how we can further our discipleship and outreach in Downtown Mesa.

- Pastor Mel

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

UPCOMING SERMONS



Pastor Mel will be presenting a sermon series focusing on "The Letters of Joy" from Philippians:

9/9 - Philippians 1:1-11
Hanging Together - Not Apart!

9/16 - Philippians 1:12-18
Finding God in Life's Setbacks

9/23 -
Philippians 3:19-30; 4:2-3
From Friends Arguing to Kindred Spirits

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



On November 4, 2018 our church will celebrate the lives of family members and friends that have passed since November of last year (2017). The Worship Committee would like your help in securing the names of those who you would like to remember and recognize on All Saints Sunday. Please call Virginia Berg at 480-655-7722 and give the committee the names and information.

Fry's Rewards

Please register for the Community 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 points.



SPRC

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Feonisia Sikalu, "Sia" (pronounced see-uh) for short, to the staff of First Church as our Financial and Membership Secretary. Sia and his family are already First Church members and we are happy to have him join our staff!

In more staff news, we are blessed to have Karen Taylor as our new organist and accompanist. Karen has a Masters of Music in Organ Performance and is currently working on her Doctoral degree in Organ Performance at ASU. Karen is married and has six children and six grandchildren.



Welcome!

WELCOMING COMMITTEE



**Sunday, September 9th
10 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Join SPRC and the Welcoming Team as we officially welcome Pastor Mel and celebrate and thank our staff for their dedication and service. SPRC will introduce your staff and present them with a small token of our thanks. You can also show your appreciation for all that they do with a card or monetary gift if you wish. Baskets will be available in the hall. Everyone is invited to this special 3 in 1 event!!!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our church continues to be blessed by a loving and giving congregation. Through the first seven months of the year, we are approximately \$35,000 ahead of our projected budget. This is due to a combination of increased giving and some decreased expenses. Your church finance committee has determined it is appropriate to increase the amount of our apportionments payments to our Desert Southwest Conference. Although we are still paying less than half of the Apportionments due, because of your stewardship we have steadily increased these amounts over the last few years. We are also excited about the continued progress provided by the "Save our Sanctuary" project. We look forward to the celebration of our 125 years as a congregation in Downtown Mesa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Service Options

Interested in a modern worship or second option of worship again? Attend a meeting of the minds on September 9th at 10:45 in the chapel after the ice cream social to discuss the future of our modern meditation service. We will have a brief time of reflection and Holy Communion and then discuss second service options. If you cannot attend but have input, please contact Pastor Mel at so your thoughts can be shared at the meeting as well.

Are You Caring for a Loved One?

The Volunteer Respite Program is available to provide time away for caregivers. Call Marilyn Krouse for more information at 480-654-8829.



125th Anniversary Celebration

Our Bishop, Robert Hoshibata has agreed to lead us in worship on Sunday, November 18, 2018. We will be celebrating 125 years of ministry in Mesa. Prior to this date there will be fun trivia questions & "Anniversary Blurbs" in the bulletin highlighting some of our history and accomplishments over the years. We hope to have a way for each of you to participate in this momentous occasion.

If you have historical information to share, pictures, stories or other memorabilia please contact Virginia Berg at 480-655-7722.

Remember to save the date and watch for additional information.



Register now!

October 5-7

All Church Camp

\$50 Adults (18+)
\$30 Youth (13-17)
\$10 Children (2-12)

Free for under 2 years of age

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.

9/2 Labor Day No Youth

9/9 Extreme Youth Room Makeover

9/16 Organ Stop Pizza Fundraiser 5-7 pm (Pick up/Drop off at Organ Stop or bring your whole family)

9/23 Volleyball and Games with Red Mountain UMC 11:30 am-2 pm

9/30 Photo Scavenger Hunt at North Scottsdale UMC 11:30 am-3:30 pm

10/7 Devotional and Slickables Ice Cream

10/14 Coffee Talk at Starbucks

10/21 Pumpkin Games

10/27 Volunteer at Trunk or Treat 4:30 pm-7:00 pm

10/28 No Youth

Nicholle Hansen
youth@firstchurchofmesa.com



Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes Sept 12th!
We will be reading Phillips Yancey's "What's So Amazing

About Grace?" Join us in the Assembly room at 10:00 for study, discussion and fellowship led by Pastor Bob!

Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletins /
Announcements

Wednesday Noon

Spire Deadline

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

September 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

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!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/01	Carroll, Stan	09/23	Whitford, Theresa
09/01	Kuck, Nicole	09/25	Baum, Ann
09/02	Cummings-John, Yemi	09/25	Mussack, Juanita
09/03	Huffer, Jeannine	09/26	Kaleopa, Naiatea
09/03	McAvoy, Donna	09/26	Lucchesi, Rick
09/03	Tatom, Erinn	09/26	Phillips, Linda
09/03	Warden, Jim	09/26	Tenney, Peggy
09/06	Mozurkewich, Emma	09/27	Grace, Donny
09/08	Hakaumotu, Tevita	09/27	Kaleopa, Kayce
09/08	Ripley, Jim	09/27	Larry, Inez
09/08	Thuenen, Randall	09/28	Busch, Hannah
09/08	Woodcock, Stella	09/28	Justice, Alysa
09/09	Peterson, Wanita	09/29	Losey, Evelyn
09/11	Pirlo, Debbie	09/30	Kopf, Mary
09/12	Cummins, Sierra	09/30	Larson, Kathy
09/12	Lewis, Terry	09/30	Robinson, Mason
09/13	Mayberry, Vanessa		
09/13	Mindrup, Raymond		
09/13	Vasko, Vera		
09/15	Patterson, Betty Jo		
09/15	Sellers, Krissi		
09/17	Standage, Seth		
09/18	Kain, Ryan		
09/19	McCraw, Ryan		
09/20	Miller, Heather		
09/20	Stevenson, Sandra		
09/20	Tolentino, Jr., William		
09/21	Bartlow, Jeanette		
09/21	Harris, Layla		
09/21	Royer, Makayla		
09/22	Desenberg, Margaret		
09/22	Thuenen, Judy		
09/22	Valenzuela, William		
09/22	Whitford, Anthony		
09/23	Barefoot, Juanita		
09/23	Cummings, Abigail		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/04	Thompson, Tracy & Scott
09/07	Ripley, Pam & Jim
09/12	Hakaumotu, Puii V. & Tevita
09/16	Thuenen, Judy & Randall
09/27	Blais, Tracy & Raymond
09/29	Losey, Marvin & Evelyn



First United Methodist Church of Mesa
2018 Calendar of Events

Visit us online
firstchurchofmesa.com

Find us on social media
[@firstchurchmesa](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmesa)

JANUARY

1/7 Epiphany Sunday
 1/21 Winter Visitor Reception
 1/24-27 Directory Photos

FEBRUARY

2/9-11 Youth Winter Camp
 2/14 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm
 2/18 1st Sunday of Lent

MARCH

3/11 Happy Birthday Potluck
 3/12-16 Spring Break
 3/24 Church Picnic 11am
 3/25 Palm/Passion Sunday
 3/30 Good Friday 7pm

APRIL

4/1 Easter Sunday Services
 6:30/9:00/11:30am
 4/14 Enneagram Workshop

MAY

5/13 Mother's Day
 5/20 Pentecost Sunday, 25th Anniversary
 of the Dobson Organ and
 Bonnie Loney's Retirement Party
 5/27 Graduate Recognition

JUNE

6/3 Splash into Summer Reception
 6/4-9 Youth Mission Trip
 6/10 Rennick Farewell Reception
 6/14-17 Annual Conference

JULY

7/9-13 Vacation Bible School

AUGUST

8/5 Blessing of the Backpacks
 8/29 Dinner & Choir Rehearsals return

SEPTEMBER

9/9 Ice Cream Social/Staff Appreciation
 and Welcome Mel
 9/12 Wed. AM Bible Study returns
 9/16 Organ Stop- Youth Fundraiser 4-8pm

OCTOBER

10/5-7 All Church Camp
 10/7 World Communion Sunday
 10/8-12 Fall Break
 10/21 Hymn Sing & Potluck
 10/27 Trunk or Treat 5-7pm

NOVEMBER

11/4 All Saints Sunday
 11/18 125th Celebration

DECEMBER

12/1 Hanging of the Greens
 12/2 Advent begins
 12/16 Christmas Cookies &
 Family Craft Reception 10am
 12/23 Christmas Cantata
 12/24 Christmas Eve Activities
 7pm Choir Service
 8pm Live Nativity
 11pm Candlelight Service

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

THE SPIRE (USMC 944660) is published monthly, by the First United Methodist Church, 15 East First Avenue, Mesa AZ 85210, a nonprofit organization. Periodical postage paid at Mesa AZ 85201-9996.

THE SPIRE

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The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is September 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.

