

April 2011

Special points of interest:

- Our Vision
- Publication/Spire Deadline
- Altar flowers
- Church hours
- Electronic giving
- Church hours
- Go green
- Facebook/twitter
- Church Hours
- Pod Cast Sermons
- Mark your calendar

Inside this issue:

Jeri's Corner	2
April Sermons	3
Worship	4
Missions/Outreach	5
Faith In Action	6
Notes & Appreciation	7
April Birthday & Anniversary Corner	8



THE SPIRE



THOUGHTS FROM THE FARRER SIDE...

Just a week ago I called my daughter to wish her happy birthday and to say I hoped it would be a great day! She's young enough that it's still fun to get excited about birthdays. Somewhere along the way, though, most of us stopped getting very excited about having another birthday.

I remember one of mine years ago when the kids were so eagerly excited and they couldn't wait for the cake. With all my confidence in the power of my breath, I nonchalantly blew out all the candles decorating the cake in one puff. But just as I was about to burst forth with self-praise, one candle sputtered back to life. I quickly gathered myself and put forth another windy effort which quickly extinguished the flame - then once again the little flame came back to life. No matter what I did or how hard or long I blew, the little candle would not go out. My kids were of course enjoying the display. So finally I wet my finger and thumb and stuffed out the life with one crushing blow...and yet there it was flaming again!

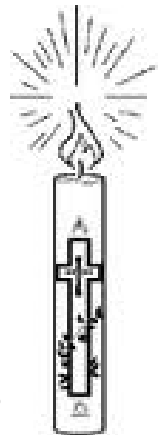
This may have been the kid having fun at Dad's expense but in that little drama was a bigger more important message...an Easter message! For they hung him on the cross until dead - they thought that ought to put out his flame...but it didn't. They buried him in a tomb and sealed it, but he burst into life again. Everything humanly possible was done to put out the flame of that one life...but here it is still burning bright!

That's the way it is with Jesus. Sometimes it seems like life's storms may blow him out of our lives, sometimes the pinch of life causes the flame of our faith to sputter and go out...but just give it some time and believe me...it will flame again.

What a great reminder for this Easter...no matter how many things have tried to put out our flame and made our faith sputter and the flame die - hang in there. It will come alive again. We are an Easter people and we know - He Is Risen!

In Christ,

Pastor Jim



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.

LIKED THE SERMON?

You can now download the sermons onto your Ipod or listen via your computer.

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

JERI'S CORNER

Many of you are familiar with our i-HELP program that started a year ago this April. On Wednesday nights, we host single homeless women in our Family Life Center where they can have a good nights sleep, breakfast, and a refreshing shower. We have some good news about that program. The City of Mesa has restored some dilapidated apartment units to be used for transitional housing. One of our long-time residents of the i-HELP program, Lisa, has moved into one of these units.

Lois Haines, along with some others, have provided a housewarming basket full of linens, towels, and other household items for Lisa on behalf of the church.

We are grateful for the transforming work Christ has done through the many gifts of this church and I'm sure Lisa and the other residents of the program are too.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeri



APRIL SERMON SERIES



March 13th–April 17th

The creator of the hit television series, Glee, stated that he wants to create an experience for people that would be an alternative to the standard television fare of guns, lawyers and medical shows. He wanted the shows to offer an “escape” for people – not from reality but to something better! Our Lenten series is going to focus on the spiritual disciplines – things we can all do to connect with something better (God). In the style of the show we will use a pair of songs each week to “highlight” the discipline we are examining.



April 24th–May 22nd

Why have people under 35 “unplugged” from the church? Through extensive surveys and research the authors of the book, unchristian, have identified the views of these young adults and their reason for staying away from the church. We will address some of these perceptions of the church and offer suggestions about what the church might do to overcome these obstacles.

APRIL SCHEDULE

April 3rd

[Communion]



Brief worship at 9:00am only and then we will go out into the community and put our faith in action.

April 10th

[Lent]

Sermon Series: Glee

Sermon Title: "Meditation"

Featured Songs: "The Sounds of Silence" and "I Could Have Danced All Night"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service – Bob

April 17th

[Lent]

Sermon Series: Glee

Sermon Title: "Singing"

Featured Songs: "Thank you for the Music" and "Sound of Music"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service – Jim



APRIL SCHEDULE

April 24th

[Easter]

Sermon Series: *Unplugged*

Sermon Title: "The Church Is Judgmental—87%"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service – Jim



May 1st

[Communion]

Sermon Series: *Unplugged*

Sermon Title: "The Church is Hypocritical—85%"

Preaching Schedule: 1st service – Jim

HOSPITALITY

Thanks:

Thanks to the Searcher's Sunday School Class for helping to make our New Member Potluck a success. We also thank our new members and congregation for attending and for bringing such delicious food!

Save the date:

The Hospitality Team will have one more potluck before the summer. It will be Sunday, May 1 at 10:00 - between services. We will be celebrating all of our birthdays! We promise to have two more lines at the buffet tables to expedite the serving process! Please bring more of that delicious food and be ready to sing "Happy Birthday" to all of us!

Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletins /
Announcements

Wednesday Noon

Spire Deadline

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

April 10th

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



Altar Flowers

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

CHURCH HOURS

M-TH:
9–4:30 pm

Friday:
9–2 pm

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 Phyllis Kern Howe for further details.

WORSHIP



Walking with Jesus

April 17th
Palm Sunday
Services at 9:00am and 11:11am - Our choirs will process with Palms as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem.

April 21st
Holy Thursday Service at 7pm - We walk with Jesus as he nears his death.

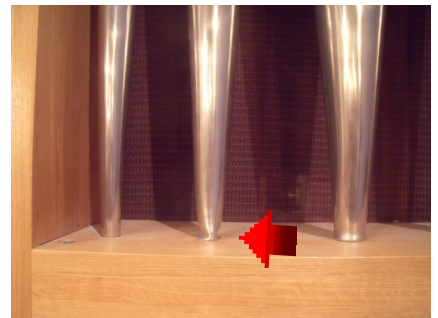
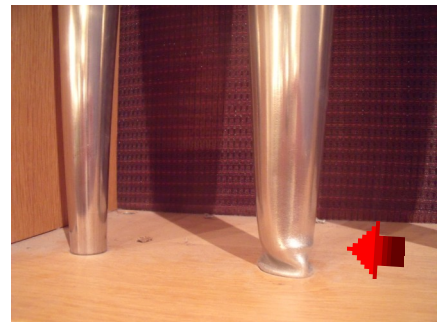
April 22nd
Good Friday Service at 7pm - Our choir will present "Requiem" by John Rutter - We mourn the death of Jesus

April 24th
Easter - Sunrise service with communion led by our youth at 6:30 am. Services of celebration of the resurrection. Services at 9am & 11:11am.

Come – Walk with Jesus during Holy Week and come Celebrate the resurrection!

Organ Update

We have heard from the Dobson Co. and the manufacturer of the pipes, and they have agreed to be apart of the team in getting the organ repaired. Please see the below pictures, and you can get a closer and larger view of the pipes in the Narthex. Stay tuned for updates as they become available.



Sanctuary

The Worship committee has been in conversation with the Trustees about the possibility of removing the old large speaker boxes on either side of the sanctuary. One consideration would be to possibly move the two crosses from immediately over the doors to the higher space where the speakers have been. This would place them in closer align with our beautiful Rose window that they compliment. If you have any feedback on this consideration pleas be in touch with John Morrison—Chair of the Trustees or Sandra Lackore—Chair of the Worship Committee.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

The Missions/Outreach team project of Christ in Christmas and Journey to the Manger offering totaled \$4,500.00. The Missions Team voted to send \$1,000.00 to each of the following missions:



- UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Mission, Phoenix)
- Wesley Foundation Student Activities at Arizona State University
- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief)
- Pas de Cristo, meals for the homeless, Mesa

The remainder of the funds is being held in an account for emergencies, or other mission needs that may arise during the year. We are grateful to our congregation for your generous response to these missions.

The Closet

The Closet has officially opened! This project allows women-in-need to choose one outfit of clothing per month at no cost. The closet will be open every second Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We look forward to expanding our closet to men as soon as we receive an adequate supply. If you would like to help with The Closet please leave your name and phone number at the church office. Allison Jordan is the manager of The Closet.



BLOG WITH THE PASTORS

Our Pastors are blogging, are you? Here is a recent post by Pastor Jim.

“I have some more “untamed” thoughts this week. Have you ever noticed how many people are only ready to accept people in the church after they repent? Funny, because for Jesus acceptance precedes repentance (i.e. woman caught in adultery). We so easily focus on the sin-morality side without the grace-love side of the equation. To experience the radical grace of God is to change—to miss grace is to miss the whole point! Love, and not detached morality, is the fulfillment of the law.

Many Christians tend to regard sin as acting immorally or unethically and see an ethical life as the highest goal in following God. But this is not the biblical view because it substitutes morality for the primary focus of discipleship which is duty to God. It’s about relationship, not rules and regulations. Most of us find it far more convenient (and safe) to deal with rules than with God. “Morality unconnected to the source of morality yields the cold, sad, judgmental self-righteousness of moralism.”.

Blog about Jim’s sermon, upcoming events at First Church, or just your own theological thoughts.

Invite friends and family who are lost or looking for a church to read some of Pastor Jim’s blogs. You’ll also find The Farrer Side on the blog, so you can blog about Pastor Jim’s thoughts.

First Church is reaching out to accommodate everyone’s form of communication, from the printed Spire, to having it e-mailed, to e-news, to Facebook, Twitter, and now blogging. This is part of The Journey: i-serve, i-connect, i-praise. It’s your Journey, and the communication committee is providing you the outlets to assist with that Journey!

HELP US GET IT RIGHT AND GO GREEN

If your name or address is incorrect; if you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically; or you want your name removed from our mailing list, please let us know and we will be happy to make the changes . We appreciate your help!

Church Calendar

Is now available on the church website at firstchurchofmesa.com/news/index.html

**GET THE NEWS
AS IT
HAPPENS!**

Do you Tweet? Find the latest happenings by following First Church @ twitter.com/firstchurchmesa

Are you on Facebook? If so become a friend of First Church of Mesa by searching First United Methodist Church of Mesa.

Get a copy of each weeks service on CD at the Welcome Booth every Sunday.

Pod Casting is HERE!



**FAITH IN ACTION/SERVICE SUNDAY
First United Methodist Church of Mesa**

- When:** Sunday, April 3, 2011 (Following the 9:00 am Worship Service)
- Where:** Multiple locations: FUMC Fellowship Hall; Guerrero School; Fellowship Square; and the surrounding neighborhood
- Who:** You and all members of our church. You may invite friends and neighbors
- What:** The church will hold only a 9 a.m. service. Afterwards we will have an opportunity to put our faith into action through a variety of service projects:
- Paint playground equipment at Guererro School
 - Plant plants at Guererro School
 - Cover school library books with plastic in Earl North Hall
 - Make snack kits for needy who come to our church through out the week (in hall)
 - Make health kits for the Center Against Family Violence (in hall)
 - Make cookies for the nearby Police and Fire Departments (in hall)
 - Make knotted blankets for people who are sick in our neighborhood (in hall)
 - Clean yards in the neighborhood
 - General help for Fellowship Square
 - Sort shoes and socks for Guererro School kids
 - Worship outreach
- Why:** Incorporated in the vision statement of First Church is the recognition that we need to reach out to the community. Faith in Action/Service Sunday will give each of us the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus in meeting real needs. We will have the opportunity to work as a church family for our community.
- How:** Watch for more information on specific projects, team leaders and how you can participate and put your faith into action.
- Contacts:**
- | | |
|--|--|
| Pat Shaw | Margie Rice |
| H: 480-839-8141 | H: 963-0307 |
| C: 602-790-9701 | C: 433-2414 |
| pshaw8647@cox.net | rjrice@aol.com |

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The Lord's Table

Linda Phillips, the one who does the beautiful arrangements for the Lord's Table, is looking for assistance in this important ministry. All items that are placed on the table must be coordinated with Linda. If you are interested in assisting with this ministry please contact Linda.



Host an Exchange Student

The Center for Cultural Interchange invites you to host a High School Foreign Exchange Student. If you are interested, you can stop by the office and look at the pamphlet, check out the website at www.cci-exchange.org, or call the local representative Penny Mould at 480-840-6112. There are also opportunities for adults to volunteer abroad!



NOTE

To All my Sisters at First Church

Proper hat etiquette is a show of social graces, good manners and respect. The Apostle Paul decreed that women needed to cover their heads while praying /attending church. (1 Corinthians 11:5)

This year 2011 as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday, let us follow Paul's call by wearing our hats or any head covering to our worship service.

God Bless,

Harriet Cummings-John

PAYING IT FORWARD

Did you Know...

That First United Methodist Foundation—Mesa is an endowment fund that was created to support worthwhile religious, educational and charitable projects within the Church that are not usually or sufficiently included in the annual Church budget. As an endowment fund the Foundation's principal is invested to provide future income. The principal remains intact, insuring that gifts will continue to support future Church programs for years to come. A gift to the Foundation is truly a gift that keeps on giving! The Foundation's General Fund assets were valued at approximately \$155,000 at 2010 year end.



APPRECIATION

A big thank you to Naomi and Jim Sublett for re-installing our beautiful Anniversary Quilt.

A thank you to Debbie Robinson who has agreed to be our new Usher Coordinator. If you would like to be part of the ministry of ushering please get in touch with Debbie

~The Worship Committee

Thank
You

Mark Your Calendars!

Faith in Action Sunday
April 3rd

Youth Confirmation
Retreat Friday April 8th
to Sunday April 10th

All Church Potluck
Sunday May 1st 10:00am-
11:00am

Children's Spring Musical
Sunday May 8th

Youth Confirmation and
Talent Show

Sunday May 15th

Financial Peace University
Wednesday's 6:15pm



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Wanda Foster	1-Apr
John O'Neal	1-Apr
Joshua Robinson	1-Apr
Jim Shepard	2-Apr
Emma Tatom	3-Apr
Trevor Chapman	4-Apr
Rob Beyers	5-Apr
Rachel Bunning	5-Apr
Ginny Kovalsky	6-Apr
Kay Verhoff	6-Apr
Lynn Adams	6-Apr
Barbara Wise	7-Apr
Malcolm Knock	8-Apr
Lindsay Kain	9-Apr
Lynsey Montgomery	9-Apr
Jessica Hernandez	10-Apr
Dorothy Beyers	11-Apr
William Kerr	12-Apr
Betsy Bunning	12-Apr
Carl Heath	13-Apr
Betty Jean Davis	14-Apr
Gary Foote	14-Apr
Carole Weatherbee	14-Apr
Jon Hayden	15-Apr
Yolanda Santiago	15-Apr
Dorothy Eckstrom	16-Apr
Nicholas Fedt	16-Apr
William Windle	17-Apr
Marlys Henderson	17-Apr
Sean Price	17-Apr
Bridget Thatcher	17-Apr
Haley Rizzo	17-Apr
Jerry Ferguson	18-Apr
James Garrison	18-Apr
Samantha Foote	19-Apr

Eryn Mayberry	19-Apr
Alice Smith	20-Apr
John Woodcock	20-Apr
John Kirby	21-Apr
Nicholle Hansen	21-Apr
Tanya Gorin	21-Apr
Robert Olsson	22-Apr
Ron Bartlow Sr.	22-Apr
Kerry Jordan	22-Apr
Bill Nail	24-Apr
April Leathers	24-Apr
Alicia Gifford	24-Apr
Sharon Desenberg	25-Apr
Robert Clute	26-Apr
Debbie Leathers	26-Apr
Marlon Martin	26-Apr
Carroll Huffer	27-Apr
Nicholas Gurevitz	27-Apr
Lester Besse	28-Apr
Douglas Scott	29-Apr
Allisa Doty	29-Apr
Eva Hill	30-Apr
Kelly Carbone	30-Apr
Leah Bunning	30-Apr
Sarah Kuck	30-Apr

ANNIVERSARY CORNER

4/4	Richgels, Tom & Cheryl
4/4	Hitchcock, James & Sheryl
4/9	Curry, Dean & Carolyn
4/9	Seidel, William & Nancy
4/12	Verdugo, Favio & Christina
4/14	O'Neal, John & Dottie
4/21	Connolly, Ivan & Cynthia
4/21	Byers, Charles & Norda
4/28	Birge, Willard & Evelyn



Congratulations to all our April birthdays and 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



Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Jim Farrer

Rev. Jeri Wilkerson

Rev. Dr. Bob Mitchell

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.

THE SPIRE

First United Methodist Church
15 E. First Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210
480-969-5577
fax 480-844-2846

Spire Submissions: secretary@firstchurchofmesa.com
www.firstchurchofmesa.com

Office Hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Thursday
9 am - 2 pm Friday

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.

The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is April 10, 2011.

The Spire Newsletter Team

Editors: Kim Cummings, Katie Mozurkewich

Publisher: Matt and Jamie Webb

Printers: Jo Ann Ramirez Davis, Kermit Davis

Assemblers: Eunice Coe, Pam Rutkowski, Irene Risser, Tillie Whitford, Carla Zwald, Linda Miller, Margaret Desenberg, Rodney Mindrup, and Bob Brown

