

February 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:

- February Sermons 2
- Hospitality/Worship 3
- Mission/Outreach 4
- Invite from Pastor Bob 5
- Blog with the Pastor/Appreciation 6
- February Birthday & Anniversary Corner 7

# THE SPIRE



## THOUGHTS FROM THE FARRER SIDE...

How do you say, "I love you"? Hallmark will gladly recommend any number of cards. Your friendly florist will suggest you do it with flowers. But the question comes not from someone love-struck but from anyone who makes the decision to take Jesus seriously.

So—how do you say "I love you" to someone who is hard to love—to one you have a long-time prejudice against? How do you say "I love you" to someone you've know, worked daily with, but never before bothered beyond necessary business, the weather or the time of day? How do you say "I love you" to someone you said it to before but now realize all you meant was "you meet my needs"?



Don't dismiss the cards and flowers or a gift...there's nothing wrong with any of them and we are all apt to be remiss about giving them. But admittedly this goes deeper – much deeper than cards, flowers or gifts. I'm not sure you can ever convincingly communicate the Christian "I love you" unless you are first solidly ground in Christian love of self. When we get ourselves cleaned up and cleaned out we find a new awareness of ourselves as God's own child. And we love what we are in God's hands. And we love what is God's!

When that kind of love is born within, it can't be kept in...even if you try. It just grows and spreads to touch whatever you touch and reach wherever you reach. It says it – loud and clear – "I love you"!

**In Christ,  
Pastor Jim**

[P.S. Please give cards, flowers & gifts, too...don't say "the Pastor said I didn't need to".]



## 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](http://firstchurchofmesa.com) and start reaching out electronically to friends, family, and those who are looking for God!

## FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES



### January 30th—March 6th

Often we hear about the detrimental effects of television programming. In this series, we will turn the tables on that idea and look at what positive things we can learn about our faith and relationships with God and others from television. During the series we will be discussing shows like The Andy Griffith Show, I Love Lucy, The Brady Bunch and Joan of Arcadia, and characters such as Betty White and "Flo" from the new Progressive Insurance commercials. The topics will include love, forgiveness, life lessons, experiencing God and hospitality.

## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

### **February 6th**

#### **[Communion Sunday]**

*Sermon Series: TV Land*

*Sermon Title: "Betty White—You're never too old"*

*Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31*

*Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jim*

### **February 13th**

*Sermon Series: TV Land*

*Sermon Title: "I Love Lucy—Forgiving 7 x 70!"*

*Scripture: Matthew 18:21-22*

*Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jim*

### **February 20th**

*Sermon Series: TV Land*

*Sermon Title: "The Brady Bunch—Overcoming Life's Brokenness"*

*Scripture: II Corinthians 4:6-7*

*Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Bob*

**February 27th***Sermon Series: TV Land**Sermon Title: "Joan of Arcadia—Experiencing God"**Scripture: Luke 24:13-36**Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jim***March 6th****[Communion Sunday]***Sermon Series: TV Land**Sermon Title: "Flo, the Progressive Insurance Spokesperson—Offering Hospitality"***FEBRUARY LITURGISTS****Feb. 6th**

9:00 Rev. John O'Neal

11:11 Rev. John O'Neal

**Feb. 13th**

9:00 Anne Ashand

11:11 Jim Garrison

**Feb. 20th**

9:00 Youth Sunday

11:11 Youth Sunday

**Feb. 27th**

9:00 Tame Tapaatoutai

11:11 Clara Herrin

**HOSPITALITY****All Congregation Potluck Brunch**

Mark your calendars for our next **All Congregation Potluck Brunch**. It will be on **Sunday, March 6** between services. We will be recognizing those of you who have joined FUMC within the last year! Don't worry, we won't ask our new members to speak but we would like to formally reintroduce you to everyone. A member of the Hospitality Team will be contacting you to get some information and let you know the agenda for that morning. The rest of us will be excited to get to know you better as well as enjoying everyone's company and great food! Please remember to bring a brunch dish to share. The Hospitality Team will provide a cake.

Looking forward to a wonderful morning!

The Hospitality Team

**WORSHIP****"Flip Your Cushion Sunday"**

In order to facilitate the settling of the foam in our new pew cushions we need to regularly "Flip" our cushions. So once each quarter during announcements on Sunday, we will ask congregants to Flip their Cushions!

**Publication Deadlines**

Sunday Bulletins /  
Announcements

**Wednesday Noon****Spire Deadline**

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

**February 10<sup>th</sup>**

(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.

### MISSIONS/OUTREACH



#### NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

FUMC Mesa will be hosting a Neighborhood Block Party on Saturday April 16th from 11-2

This will be a free event for the surrounding community. Our hope is to have every member of the congregation contribute to this event in some way, whether it is volunteering to help the day of the event, making a donation, or both.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following duties:

Set Up/Clean Up, Security, Garbage Detail, Parking Assistance, Food Preparation/Service, and Activities for Children.

Donations of the following items are also needed:

Hot Dog Buns, Individually bagged chips, Popcorn, Popcorn oil, Snow cone syrup, Iced tea mix, Lemonade mix, Bottled Water, Cookies, Paper Plates, Napkins, Cups, Hot Dog Holders, Condiments, Bands/Musicians, Activities for Children, Balloons and a Helium tank, and Monetary donations are also welcomed.

### MISSIONS/OUTREACH

**Save the Date: April 3, 2011**

#### **FAITH IN ACTION/ SERVICE SUNDAY**

This program will give each and every member of First United Methodist Church of Mesa the opportunity to serve as a community within the community; an opportunity to BE the church.

### MISSIONS/OUTREACH

On Faith in Action/Service Sunday, the congregation will gather for prayer and worship and will then go with their project team leader into the community or will gather together in Fellowship Hall to complete a service project.

Selected projects will offer the entire congregation a choice for service. The projects will all be designed to directly touch lives and reflect Christ's love to others in our community. **The goal is 100% participation!** Every member of First United Methodist Church of Mesa will have an opportunity to serve. Demonstrate the love of Christ to the Community around First United Methodist Church by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus in meeting real needs in the local community on the Sunday designated as Faith in Action/Service Sunday.

We will all wear our red T-shirt that says: "Impact Your Community: Rethink Church". These can be purchased at the Information booth before or after services

**DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH.  
BE THE CHURCH.**

**SAVE THE DATE: April 3, 2011**



## INVITE FROM PASTOR BOB



Just Desserts Class  
5:45 PM Wednesday Nights  
Room D with Pastor Bob



*Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey:  
Nine Steps of Forgiving through Jesus= Beatitudes,*  
by Flora Slosson Wuellner

Wednesday	Chapter/Title	Scripture
<b>February 16th</b>	Introduction 1 Forgiveness: How Is It Possible?	
<b>February 23rd</b>	2 Facing Our Hurt, Naming Our Need	Matthew 5:3 The Poor in Spirit
<b>March 2nd</b>	3 Making Space for Pain, Greif, and Anger	Matthew 5:4 Those Who Mourn
<b>March 9th Ash Wednesday</b>	4 Away from Force into God's Gentle Power	Matthew 5:5 The Meek
<b>March 23rd</b>	5 Released to New Healing Choices	Matthew 5:6 Hunger/Thirst for Righteousness
<b>March 30th</b>	6 Seeing the Wounds of Our Wounders	Matthew 5:7 The Merciful
<b>April 6th</b>	7 Focusing on God's Light in Others and Ourselves	Matthew 5:8 The Pure in Heart
<b>April 13th</b>	8 Bringing the Passionate Peace	Matthew 5:9 The Peace Makers
<b>April 20th Holy Week</b>	9 Living As Whole Persons among the Unreconciled	Matthew 5:10 Persecuted for Righteousness Sake
<b>April 27th</b>	10 Becoming a Singing, Shining Enemy	Matthew 5:11-12 When Reviled and Persecuted, Rejoice and Be Glad
<b>May 4</b>	11 Forgiveness Fully Formed	

**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](http://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](https://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!**



## BLOG WITH THE PASTORS

Our Pastors are blogging, are you?

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!

## APPRECIATION

Thank you to Virgil Schatz, Ken Boggess & Lyle Christensen who helped ring bells for the Salvation Army this Christmas season and raised over \$1,845.35!



## APPRECIATION

Cecil and I want to Thank Phyllis Kern Howe and the Finance Committee for making available to those of us that pay our pledge electronically "giving slips" that we can put in the offering plate when it passes on Sunday morning.

Cecil and I have given electronically in the past three churches we have been members of. It started when I was traveling so much but it just became a habit and we could be sure that even if we weren't able to be in church our pledge was!

The "giving slips" now enable us to "put something in the offering plate" when it passes. We would encourage you to think about electronic giving. It ensures that the work of our church continues even when we are not able to be present.

Again, many thanks to Phyllis and to Jon.

Sandra and Cecil Lackore

*Thank You*

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Norda Byers	1-Feb
Denise Peterson	1-Feb
Christian Webb	1-Feb
Barbara Atkinson	3-Feb
Frances Clute	3-Feb
Julie Curran	3-Feb
Wayne Hill	3-Feb
Mary Lilly	3-Feb
Kathryn Moore	3-Feb
Siokatame Tapaatoutai	3-Feb
Crystal Anderson	4-Feb
Ruth Haines	4-Feb
Emma Rittenhouse	4-Feb
Jim Shepard	4-Feb
Bridget Thatcher	5-Feb
Will Tatom	6-Feb
Duni Cummings-John	7-Feb
Allison Gaetjens	7-Feb
John Snodgrass	7-Feb
Mikayla Wilkerson	8-Feb
LaVerne Nohren	10-Feb
Nancy Likens	11-Feb
Susan Williams	12-Feb
Ryan Kuck	13-Feb
Mary Heath	14-Feb
Julia Adams	15-Feb
Jo Darling	15-Feb
Charles White	15-Feb

Patricia Perry	17-Feb
Arline Byers	19-Feb
John Dawson	19-Feb
Karen Harwood	19-Feb
Albert Atkinson	22-Feb
Hayden Love	22-Feb
Keller Tatom	23-Feb

**ANNIVERSARY CORNER**

2/6	Adams, Lynn & Julia
2/6	Gifford, Austin & Alicia
2/6	Ramsey, Jeff & Michelle
2/14	Verhoff, Charles & Kay
2/25	Miller, Buford & Linda



## Mark Your Calendars!

SAM Kids—Mystery  
Dinner **Sunday**  
**February 20th**  
5:30pm-7:30pm

Financial Peace  
University  
**Wednesday's**  
**6:15pm**

Congratulations to all our February 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



**DATED MATERIAL– DO NOT DELAY**

Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Jim Farrer

Rev. Jeri Wilkerson

Rev. Dr. Bob Mitchell

Rev. Cecil Lackore - Pastor Emeritus

[www.firstchurchofmesa.com](http://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***

First United Methodist Church  
15 E. First Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210

480-969-5577

fax 480-844-2846

Spire Submissions:

[secretary@firstchurchofmesa.com](mailto:secretary@firstchurchofmesa.com)

[www.firstchurchofmesa.com](http://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 February 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

