

March 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

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THE SPIRE



THOUGHTS FROM THE FARRER SIDE...

Our Lenten sermon series this year is on **Spiritual Disciplines**, and if there is one thing I have learned these twenty-five plus years in the ministry is that church-folk don't much care for discipline. Funny, too, because the word *discipline* comes from the same root word as *disciple*...I guess it's pretty hard to be a disciple without discipline. I won't say we are completely against it...we do like to use it on others!

As we are about to begin this Lenten journey together, I would like to say a good word for spiritual disciplines. I believe they are one of the best ways for us to continue to grow on our journeys to discipleship. They give us concrete ways "to do" some things in our lives which help teach us "to be" disciples. You see, if you are a disciple, you are about doing and being both.

This year I hope you will be encouraged by the sermons to try some disciplines in your life which will help you on your spiritual trek. I hope you will be pushed a little to move outside of your comfort zone and even try something new!

On April 3rd we will be celebrating and living the spiritual discipline of service. This is our *Faith in Action* Sunday where we are inviting, encouraging, prodding and poking each and every one of us to use our hands and feet to be disciples. In fact, you will not hear the sermon...instead you will be the sermon.

It is my personal hope and prayer that all of you will choose to participate on that Sunday and be in action in **NEW** places for the sake of the gospel, it has always been the ministry of the church to send.

On April 3rd you will be sent to be in ministry in our community. As you work with our community may you be Christ for them. There is an old saying..."you may be the only Christ they ever meet"! So come...be blessed...and go...to minister to a hurting world.



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

I wanted to let the congregation know of the exciting opportunity our youth have this summer. Every four years, the United Methodist Church through the General Board of Discipleship organizes a conference for youth across the nation. Thousands of United Methodist youth gather to be inspired by great worship, inspiring speakers, and most importantly other youth who are doing great things in the name of Christ.

Zach Hunter is one of the featured speakers for this event. At age 12, after learning the history of slavery in the U.S., he asked if slavery still existed in other parts of the world. He learned that it did. He launched the Loose Change to Loosen Chains campaign while in 7th grade, and his school and youth group students raised awareness and funds to help end modern day slavery – a problem facing 27 million people in the world today. He has written three books inspiring young people to become active in changing the world for good. He is now 18 years old.

Another keynote speaker is Gracie Schram. Gracie Schram is a 12 year old singer/songwriter, entrepreneurial philanthropist and member of the UM Church of the Resurrection in Kansas. In 2008, Gracie heard a sermon series about a mission trip her pastor took to Africa. She saw videos of the children there who are orphans due to AIDS and saw the conditions of extreme poverty they lived in and was inspired to help them. She recorded a CD of some of her original songs and donated the profits to the African village.

To date she has raised over \$17,000 and has built two fish ponds in Africa and is currently building an orphan home in Haiti.

I believe that our youth have that kind of potential as well. I want our youth at First Mesa to be inspired to become the faith leaders God is calling them to be; to take their gifts and talents and use them to make a difference in the world.

I would like each of our youth to have the opportunity to go to this event this summer. The event is in Sacramento, CA and lasts for four days. We will travel by van and have reduced costs to a minimum, but the cost of this trip will be a hardship for many families. We will be having a fundraiser in March called, Seeds of Hope. This is an opportunity, for all of us to invest in a hopeful future through our youth.

Many of our youth find this church to be a place of comfort, love, guidance and hope. I have been inspired by the love they have for this church and I see the leadership skills, the compassionate hearts, the faithful dedication and the willingness to serve God in our youth. I am both proud of them and hopeful for our future. I am invested in them, as are many of you.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeri



MARCH 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.

March 6th

[Communion Sunday]

Sermon Series: TV Land

Sermon Title: "Flo, the Progressive Insurance Spokesperson—Offering Hospitality"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jim

March 13th

[Lent]

Sermon Series: Glee

Sermon Title: "Prayer"

MARCH SCHEDULE

Featured Songs: "Somewhere Out There" and "Living on a Prayer"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jim

March 20th

[Lent]

Sermon Series: Glee

Sermon Title: "Sabbathing"

Featured Songs: "Everything's Alright" and "Let's Go Fly a Kite"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jim

March 27th

[Lent]

Sermon Series: Glee

Sermon Title: "Solitude"

Featured Songs: "I Talk to the Trees" and "Up on the Roof"

Preaching Schedule: 1st & 2nd service — Jeri

April 3rd

[Communion/Lent Sunday]

Sermon Series: Glee

Sermon Title: "Acts of Service and Kindness"

Featured Songs: "Lean on Me" and "You've Got a Friend"

Preaching Schedule: 1st service — Jim

FAITH IN ACTION SUNDAY

Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletins /
Announcements

Wednesday Noon

Spire Deadline

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

March 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/TRUSTEES

On behalf of the Worship Committee and the Trustees we want to make you aware of a significant challenge we are currently facing with our Dobson Organ. The fascia pipes (the ones you see) are "squatting." Squatting is probably the best word that we can use to describe the metallurgical problem that is causing our pipes to spread at the tip. This spreading changes both how the pipes are secured and how they sound. The Trustees, Worship committee, Church Council and of course our music staff, Jeff and Bonnie, have all been a part of the Team that is working with the Dobson Organ Company to resolve this situation. Soon, you will see in the narthex, close up pictures of the pipes.

We hope to come to a recommendation on the best way to proceed to fix our pipes and fund the repair as soon as possible. We will share both of those recommendations before we proceed. What we will need from you our congregants are your prayers and support. We would appreciate any questions you have being addressed to Jon Morrison or Sandra Lackmore.



WORSHIP

The worship committee celebrates with our congregation a continuing increase in our worship attendance! Especially in December, we had more folks in worship than the past three years. The Sunday of the choir's presentation we had almost 100 people (choirs, musicians, participants) in the chancel area alone. As we planned for our journey to the manger we shared with you that in order to accommodate all the "Christ In Christmas activities" as well as our many and varied musical presentations, we decided on simpler decorations in the chancel area. The results were evident in our ability to accommodate all of our Advent Christmas activities as we "Journeyed to the Manger." After all it is about "Keeping Christ in Christmas." Now, as we prepare for our Journey to the Cross in a few short weeks the Worship Committee is looking forward to a season of renewed personal spiritual growth enhanced by meaningful worship.



HOSPITALITY

Greeter Trainings

Thanks to those of you who came to the Greeter Training/Refresher class. We hope you are inspired to provide "radical hospitality" not only when you are greeting, but also when you are not! Thanks to Lois Haines for providing the food for both sessions as well as her grandchildren who assisted her. If you have not been trained for 2011 and would like to greet, please call Nancy Likens 480-588-7957.

HOSPITALITY

Welcome and Information Booth

Thank you Walt Ahland, Mike Elliott, Sally Tripoli, and Bob Rice for using your hospitality skills in the Welcome and Information Booth! We are looking forward to seeing your smiling faces on Sundays. If anyone else is interested in manning the Booth, please contact Walt Ahland at 480-345-7876.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Our next New Member Orientation class will be held on Sunday, March 27, from 8:30 AM until about 1:30 PM. We will gather in the Fitch Family Life Center Cafe at 8:30 AM where we will introduce ourselves to one another as we enjoy fruit, pastries, and breakfast beverages. We will attend the 9:00 Worship Service, join in the 10:00 AM Fellowship Time, tour the campus, and explore several areas of importance to church membership, including:

- Our history
- Our mission, vision and values
- Our discipleship process
- Our campus
- Our membership vows and commitment
- A time for your questions, concerns and comments.

Membership in a local community of faith is a blessing and a responsibility. We believe that starts as we answer Jesus' call to "come and see". On our journey together we believe in participation, in worship, small groups and service/mission. We hope you will join us on the journey and come and see what God is doing at First Church, and then help us be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and in the world.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Vacation Bible School

July 11-15, 2011

6:00pm-8:30pm

VBS is Free—Invite your friends

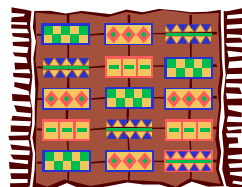
Preschool-6th Grade

Shake it Up!

The Bible gives us the recipe to shake up our lives and become Jesus' followers. Be ready for God's call, give happily to God and others, believe fully in Jesus, remember Jesus' life and teachings, and celebrate God forever. We will explore this through food science, crafts, mission projects, recreation, music, drama & devotions.

LOVE KNOTS

Thank you for your February communion donations which will help support the Love Knots Ministry. We rely solely upon donations for our materials to make the prayer blankets. We still need more money to continue with this important ministry. If you would like to send in a donation, please make a check out to the church and specify Love Knots.



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 | ricrice@aol.com |

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Colby Hansen	1-Mar	Darla Haines	18-Mar
Ruth Nesbitt	1-Mar	Linda Pfohl	18-Mar
Julie Curran	2-Mar	Douglas Conger	19-Mar
Amber Leima	2-Mar	Margaret Moreland	19-Mar
Mary Lilly	2-Mar	Barbara Downey	20-Mar
Danica Friesen	4-Mar	Kevin Nelson	20-Mar
Favio Verdugo	4-Mar	Jim Whitford	20-Mar
Natalie Carroll	5-Mar	Donna Yoes	20-Mar
Ruby Mowery	5-Mar	Deborah Elliott	22-Mar
Phyllis Swan	5-Mar	Alice Heise	22-Mar
Lute Tapaatoutai	5-Mar	Barbara Fancher	25-Mar
Jane Rizzo	6-Mar	John Cartwright	26-Mar
Parker Libhart	7-Mar	Lynette Lewis	26-Mar
Peyton Libhart	7-Mar	Mary Perkins	26-Mar
BreAnn Olmsted	7-Mar	David Seekins	27-Mar
John Desenberg	8-Mar	Shannon Wauneka	27-Mar
Sandra Lackore	8-Mar	Lisa Fleming	29-Mar
Jane Cartwright	9-Mar	Janice Daniels	30-Mar
Stefanie Bunning	11-Mar	Lindley Wagner	31-Mar
Joyce Lewis	11-Mar		
Barbara Jackson	12-Mar		
Christina Verdugo	12-Mar		
Elizabeth Elliott	13-Mar		
Bruce Henderson	14-Mar		
Irene Risser	14-Mar		
Christopher Standage	14-Mar		
Janet Compton	15-Mar		
Allyson Webb	15-Mar		
John Brune	17-Mar		
Ryan Mayberry	17-Mar		

ANNIVERSARY CORNER

3/8 Chapman, Steve & Christi
 3/10 Carbone, James & Kelly
 3/13 Friesen, Eric & Michelle
 3/18 Mehan, Kyle & Cassandra
 3/20 Kain, Ryan & Lindsay
 3/27 Hayden, Jon & Alice



Mark Your Calendars!

All Church Potluck
Sunday March 6th
 10:00am-11:00am

Youth Retreat
**Friday March 4th to
 Sunday March 6th**

Faith in Action
Sunday April 3rd

Block Party
**Saturday April
 16th**

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

Congratulations to all our March 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

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THE SPIRE

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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 March 10, 2011.

The Spire Newsletter Team

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