



Sunday Service:
9:30 Worship Service
& Children's Church

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Advancing Toward What? Words from Pastor Jonathan Evans

Just out of curiosity I read a couple of articles recently citing the Top 20 Advances in Technology and Science over the 20 years. Just go on to Google (speaking of advancements!) and you'll find them. Actually, you'll find more than you want! What



these articles tell you are that there has been more change in the past 20-25 years than any other time in history. Let me give you just the top advances from a couple of lists.

This list was compiled in 2020.

1. Smartphones:
2. Flash Drives:
3. Skype and now, Zoom
4. Google:
5. Google Maps:
6. Human Genome Project:
7. YouTube:
8. Graphene: (Just so you know what this is! With its unique conductive, transparent, and flexible properties, graphene has enormous potential to create more efficient solar panels, water filtration systems, and even defenses against mosquitos).
9. Bluetooth:
10. Facebook:
11. Curiosity, the Mars Rover:
12. Electric Cars:
13. Driverless Cars:
14. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC):
15. AbioCor Artificial Heart:
16. 3D Printing:
17. Amazon Kindle:
18. Stem Cell Research:
19. Multi-Use Rockets:
20. Gene Editing:

Obviously, these are only in the disciplines of Technology and Science. Dozens more could be added to the list of what we're calling advances. But the question that comes to my mind is: Advancing toward what?

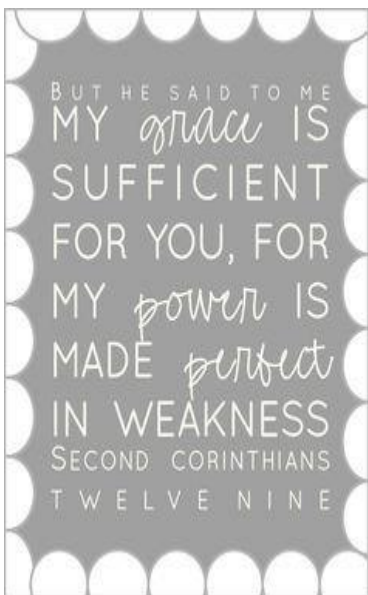
Some of these have made life faster and more precise but have they really made life more fulfilling?

They have made things easier (sometimes I wonder!), but not always better. They may have

improved our way of life, but have they improved our way of living?

There are a whole other set of influences just in America alone that have taken place in the last few years or so than the ones mentioned above: The list is way too big to even try to cover.

If you go on and look at current events it paints a different story. Republicans and Democrats are more divided along ideological lines – and partisan acrimony is deeper and more extensive – than at any point in recent history. And these trends manifest themselves in myriad ways, both in politics and in everyday life. Abortion up to the moment of birth. Pick your own gender. So, um, now you have to learn the new pronouns to be politically correct— Zie, Sie, Ey, Ve, Tey, Zim, Sie, Em, Ver, Ter, Em. Hmmm. We've got transgender battles in the bathroom here in Wickenburg at the High School. Just a thought. Here's what God tells us: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).



Of course, then there's the corruption and moral failure of leaders in business, government, entertainment, sports and religion. Increase in violent crime—violence and shootings across the country. Homelessness proliferating in cities across the nation, drugs, the disintegration of the American family, rampant materialism, the redefinition of marriage by The Supreme Court, BLM, Critical Race Theory being forced upon us in schools, Marxism is making great progress here in America toward instituting its goals, conflict on the Border, the travesty in Afghanistan—to mention a few.

My question is: Which list would you say has affected you more? The second list are certainly not advances, yet they have influenced and affected and afflicted our way of life today just as much, or even more than the other.

They have created a loss of confidence and trust in the American dream, her once sacred institutions, and in her leaders. These have fostered increased isolation and individualism and a growing cynicism and division, as well as suspicion and fear of our world and of one another. Without a doubt it has created feelings of frustration, anger and even hopelessness.

We have witnessed a lot of change for the better; technologically speaking, sadly we are not changing for the better. Do we want a better living or a better life? The former is external, material, and physical. The latter is internal, moral, and spiritual. With all these advances are we advancing or are we in retreat? We are a people reeling from the consequences of a spiritual and moral collapse. All the advances in science and technology can never touch the root of the problem. The solution to our malaise is not cosmetic but cardiac surgery. Not greater speed and accuracy but a deeper spiritual life and calling.

We are called by God. The Apostle Paul tells us this! "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). We all need to understand the call. We all need to find the call. We all need to sense we are called. You see, if you have everything the world can possibly give you, but you don't have the call of God, you're a shell compared to what you are if you experience the call of God.

What Jesus offered 2000 years ago is still the most advanced solution to the real problems of life and living:

"Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for you to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul?"

Translated it means: the one who seeks simply a better standard of living (the one with the most toys) rather than a better life—will lose. Well, it's easy to talk in general terms about the evils and ills of society. So much for blaming those anonymous folks out there somewhere. Tell me, what has influenced your life the most in the last 20 years? Or 15 years? Or 10 years? Or 5 years? Honestly.

But I want to ask you, is there more cynicism and criticism than commitment to change? Are you advancing negatively or positively? Are you working just to make a better living? Or more to the point: what advances are you working that your life might be better? Have you been applying some of the suggestions in the sermon series on what it means to be committed to the gospel, to Jesus Christ, and to an obedience to God and his word, saying to yourself, "Here's my chance! Here's my chance to respond to God's calling, to be more loving, to be more giving, to be more committed, to be more patient, to grow deeper into Christ..." As you know, if you're here on Sundays, in our current sermon series, we're looking at love and its many applications as we take an extensive look at 1 Corinthians 13.

Now, fall has already begun, but we are providing opportunities for you to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Les and Jeanne Armstrong will begin a video in person study by Mark Batterson called ***"Whisper-How to Hear the Voice of God"***. It is a four-week study. One day, this voice will make all things new, but it's also speaking to you now! That voice is God's voice, and what we've learned from Scripture is that He often speaks in a whisper. Not to make it difficult to hear Him, but to draw us close. Many people have a tough time believing God still speaks. Sure, in ancient times and in mysterious ways, God spoke to His people, but is He still speaking now? Mark Batterson certainly believes so. It began Thursday, Sep 30 at 6:00 p.m. and ends by 7:30 p.m. We have room for another couple or singles. Let us know if you are interested in joining.

- ***The Jesus Girls Life group*** will be started back up on **October 4th at 4:30 pm**. The women will be discussing the study ***"Hagar, Rediscovering the God Who Sees Me"***.

Per the author, Shadia Hrichi, "Through this seven-week, in-depth Bible study, you will find that when you surrender your life into God's hands, your trials and triumphs serve a magnificent purpose: to draw you into the arms of the faithful God Who Sees Me."

- And we continue the *Revelation Study with Dr. Chris Smith*. If you ever had questions about this last book of the Bible that most people avoid or don't know what to do with, this is the class for you. Join us as we do a deep dive looking into this amazing book verse by verse! How can anyone interpret this book responsibly? Well, if you've ever asked these questions, you're in good company. Many scholars over the centuries have, and are, still grappling with these issues now. This Bible Class will help clarify the meaning of Revelation and how to read and apply it for today. Classes will be live at First Presbyterian Church in the Gathering Room for those who can attend in person but will also be presented via a Zoom meeting for those who cannot. Classes have begun but you can still jump in at 11:15 each Sunday.

- We are also offering another really different but important series on Wednesday evenings. It is... *The American Heritage Series by David Barton*. America is not only one of the greatest nations in the history of the world, but it has also become the longest ongoing constitutional republic. However, America's longevity is only as stable as its foundation, so what is the foundation of the American government? John Adams said, "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity." Noah Webster echoed a similar refrain. He said, "The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His Apostles...This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government."

As you know, these are in grave jeopardy at this present time. So, what do you believe politicians when they say we are not a Christian nation? Does your jaw drop when you hear new versions of American history? Can you back your beliefs when it comes to our Founding Fathers? Join us for our American Heritage series by David Barton with Wallbuilders.

Learn or reacquaint yourselves with our godly start. Mr. Barton is the premiere historian of America's history. For 45 years, he has collected original documents from our forefathers, school primers, legal documents, manuscripts, books, supreme court cases and decisions.

Each video adds an arrow to your quiver. It'll be an exciting time. You will learn a ton of informative historical facts like:

**Founding Fathers true beliefs,
All that happened to turn our country away from God,
How to vet candidates ~ and more**

Join us 10 Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm
*Starts October 20
First Presbyterian Church is hosting
180 Adams, Wickenburg
Please call to make your reservation:
928-684-2836 Deb

There will be time for questions.

*Oct 20, 27 Dec. 1, 8, 15
Nov 3, 10, 17 Jan 5, 12

Any one of these studies or life groups will help you to advance and deepen your life with Christ. I look forward to growing together.

Over and over in the Gospels Jesus is making the point that it takes someone made new not something new to reverse the above disease that afflicts us all—the pursuit of simply a better standard of living rather than life lived abundantly.

Listen to the words of Jesus. “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture... I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:9-10).

You see, it takes something else. **The big commitment, the ultimate commitment** a human being can make, the one that you can make, the one that is worth your life and death, is the commitment to love and follow this Jesus who is infinitely committed to you. And that happens one person at a time.





REFORMATION SUNDAY!!

On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther launched the Protestant Revolution. He rebelled against the excesses of the Roman Catholic Church and maintained that salvation was by faith alone and by God's grace. Only forty-three years later John Knox and a group of other reformers in Scotland founded the Presbyterian Church.

Those of us with Scottish ancestry celebrate Reformation Day, the Sunday nearest October 31st, by wearing our family tartans. We encourage others to do the same by wearing the clothing of their own Protestant ancestors this year on Sunday, October 31. If you need help finding your tartan, Cheryl and Glen Longshore are glad to help. Even if you're not Scottish there are tartans for citizens of the U.S. and all the branches of the armed forces.



MEMORIAL TO RUTH CALLAHAN!!



You may have noticed a new lectern as a mate to the one Pastor Jonathon preaches from.

The lectern is in memory of our friend and devoted church member, Ruth Callahan. It was hand crafted of clear Alder wood by local cabinetmaker Kropf Craft. It features a hands-free microphone.

We trust you will think of Ruth as the word of God is spoken from this lectern.

Thanks, Ruth, for all you brought to this place for so long!!

To the glory of God from your Memorials Planning Group!



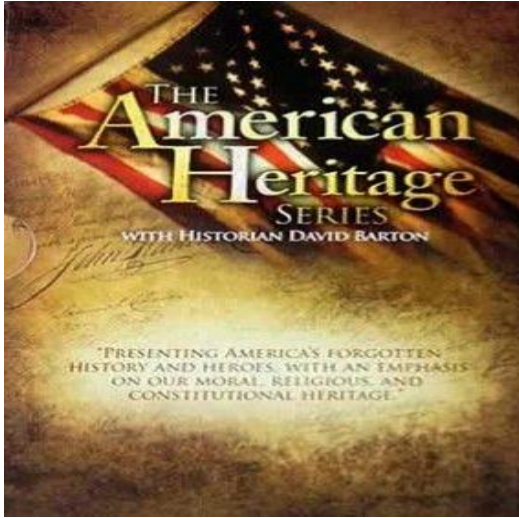
WE'RE UPDATING THE DIRECTORY!!

If you have any changes you would like in the Directory, please email your changes to...

Sharon Reinhardt at; genbug59@yahoo.com

Thanks and have a blessed day!





Marsha Hill, former resident of Wickenburg, member of 1st Presbyterian Church and former candidate for sheriff is offering, at 1st Presbyterian Church, David Barton's American Heritage. After over 8 years involved in AZ politics, she has turned to helping educate people by sharing this series with anyone who would like to know America's well documented godly heritage. Along with Marsha will be Scott Powelson. Scott has, for over 35 years, been a student of America's Constitution. Since moving to AZ, he writes articles for various journals and was involved in AZ politics. Marsha studied the Bible, verse by verse, for 7 years (and still does) and 2 years with a Rabbi. She also teaches a verse by verse Genesis study.

Several years ago, she found a DVD series on American history in a church library, checked it out, watched with Scott and learned things they'd never heard. They enjoyed sharing with many people facts and stories learned. Most people, like them, had no idea. This observation was God's way of saying "Share with other people, they need to know also". They listened and went forward. At first, they invited some people over for the series. The only thing they asked was a commitment for the 10 weeks. Once the group saw the first DVD, the commitments were made. People watched and were shocked and encouraged by the truth. Now people are offering their homes for their friends to watch, which they gladly do.

The series is being shown in a Christian school in Surprise and soon at a Surprise church.

They expect many to be excited about this series being shown locally. Marsha and Scott have been heard to say "We've watched this series 9 times and STILL learn more with each viewing."

Do you believe politicians when they say we are not a Christian nation?

Does your jaw drop when you hear new versions of American history?

Can you back your beliefs when it comes to our Founding Fathers?

You will learn a ton of informative historical facts like:

- Founding Fathers' true beliefs
- What "changes" occurred to turn our country away from God
- How to vet candidates ~ and more

No matter your political or religious beliefs, join in for:

10 Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

***Starts October 20**

First Presbyterian Church

180 Adams, Wickenburg

In the Gathering Room

Please call Deb to make your reservation:

928-684-2836

There will be time for questions:

***Oct 20, & 27 ~ Nov 3, 10, 17 ~ Dec. 1, 8, 15 ~ Jan 5, & 12**



A New Day Celebration BBQ

**It's a New Day!
Let's Celebrate!**

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a Courtyard Party!
Sunday, October 17th
after worship.



Jim Kimmins promises lively music as we come together for a Harvest meal of brats on the grill and a potluck meal featuring everyone's favorite dishes.

A Food Sign-Up sheet will now be available on the round table at the door in Fellowship Hall

Please invite friends and neighbors to join us as we come together to celebrate a 'New Day'

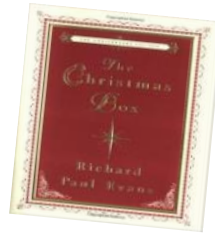
Check out the Banner!

BOOK CLUB NEWS



The 'Book Worms' just finished up their October book by Lisa Wingate
"The Book of Lost Friends"

For November, they've chosen...
'The Christmas Box'
by Richard Paul Evans.
They'll gather to discuss that on November 5th at 3:00 p.m.



It's Coffee Time!!

Coffee Time aka Fellowship Hour is up to full steam! Please note, however, we are in need of some Volunteers!!

A "4th Sunday Volunteer" sign-up sheet is on the round table at entry and needs willing volunteers each month

Besides the goodies, don't forget, it's set up and clean up afterward as well.

We hope you'll check the available dates on your calendar and ask a friend to team up with you to

Get the job done!

Birthdays

Shirley Oney	October 1st
Sharon Horn	October 5th
Ginny Randall	October 8th
Maralyn Kimmins	October 10th
Gale Fiscus	October 16th
Guy DeChellis	October 16th
Wendy Quine	October 18th
Ed Sobol	October 21st
Gail Graham	October 25th
Carolyn McDonald	October 26th



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Bob Moore	November 2nd
Jim Kimmins	November 5th
Carla Moore	November 13th
Debbie Wright	November 18th
Karen Strack	November 24th
Ross Longshore	November 30th



If we inadvertently omitted your birthday (or that of a family member) or got the wrong date, please call the Church office, or send an email to the Witness, so that we can add your special day to our list.

Camping Out at Burro Creek!!



We have one more spot available for our **October 28 – 30** Camp Out, which is coming up soon!

If you have interest in being added and haven't signed up, let Gail Graham or Kathy DeChellis know right away! They've got the info to get you going! A campfire is planned for both overnights and with NO electricity or phone service, a time of retreat and reflection is assured.

If we have you signed up already, we'll be in contact for a list of 'What to bring' and when to check in for our adventure down Highway 93, an hour away from town.

We're sending out a shout for any available pie makers, corn poppers, banjos.

Call Gail Graham or Kathy DeChellis.

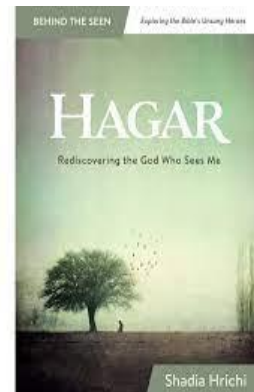
Women's Small Group Study

The "JESUS GIRLS" study is back!
 Every Monday, starting October 4 at 4:30 pm. with...
 "HAGAR, Rediscovering the God Who Sees Me" by Shadia Hrichi

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!
 Please see Dawn Andrus or Debbie Wright for more information.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Shadia Hrichi



'Am I known? Am I loved? Am I home?'

Every human heart is searching for the answers to these questions. Yet when pain and heartache enter our lives, we feel betrayed and cry out one question: *God, do You see me?*

The answer is yes. He is Behind the Seen.

Because we live in a fallen world, each of us will inevitably face hard times, even painful ones. Who among us has never seen or felt the fallout of broken homes, broken lives, or broken dreams? Hagar is a great example of someone who discovered God during a difficult time. Maybe you have never heard of her. Or perhaps you came across her name in a study of the book of Genesis. But how much do you really know about this young slave girl? We often relegate her to the backstage as a minor character in God's redemptive story. *But was she?*

As I explored Hagar's story for another book I wanted to write, God continually amazed me as we journeyed together from the affluence of Egypt, into a life of slavery, to a desert of despair. It seemed the more I studied her life, the more I discovered about God. What began as a chapter evolved into a study all its own. Two years and several thousand hours of study and prayer later, the book you are holding came to be. Consider this your backstage pass to the life of Hagar. I have never actually gone backstage during a live event, but I know that much more goes on behind the scenes than meets the eye. I invite you to come backstage with me and explore how God was involved in every detail of Hagar's life. Her story has all the ingredients of a Hollywood tragedy: betrayal, loss, abuse, crisis pregnancy, abandonment . . . any of that sound painfully familiar?

Thankfully, Hagar's story does not end in despair. God was working Behind the Seen—just as He has in your life and mine—all along. As a matter of fact, Hagar emerges victorious! Hagar: an unsung hero if there ever was one.

Beloved, is the enemy using anything in your past to try to derail you from God's plan, or hold you back from experiencing God's joy to the fullest? Be assured, that is not how your story will end. Just as God did for Hagar, when He enters your story, victory is already assured.

So strap on your sandals and grab a bottle of water. We're heading into the desert. A place where we will encounter "The God Who Sees Me."

Your sister in Christ,

Shadia

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least...you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40

Christmas Child Shoe Boxes



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox time is upon us again!

Beginning the week of October 10, our Missions Committee has set up traditional Operation Christmas Child decorated boxes and are available for your use. Those empty boxes will be available for you to take home and fill with your gifts of love for a precious boy or girl. You can find the shoeboxes in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. Filled shoeboxes will be collected on November 14th. Please be mindful that your gift might be the only gift that child ever receives or the only chance they have to hear the word or feel the love of Christ. The inclusion of a personal picture and a note for your child is a beautiful way of connecting. You can also follow your shoebox to see where it ends up! Find out how on their website.

If you are new to this shoe box giving and need some guidance on what you can include for your child? go to <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> There is also some **information available in Fellowship Hall...at the front door table...on the Missions bulletin board, and in the office!** You can also go to Pinterest. It's a great place for ideas. Just type in Operation Christmas Child or Christmas shoe boxes and a plethora of ideas are at your disposal! Check out the pamphlet we included in the empty box too.

Brief video presentations will be shown throughout the month of October to keep us encouraged and to help those who don't know about the Mission in which we are participating.

We hope you will pack a shoebox...or two, or three this season with school supplies, hygiene items, fun toys, and lots of love and prayers! And we pray right now for the boy or girl who will receive your box, that God will use it to teach them about His unending love.

These boxes of love will go to children in over 100 countries, including the United States, and is our opportunity to be involved in evangelizing and discipling to children worldwide!

If you have any questions, please call the office during normal business hours...

Or, see Deb Berner, Judy Taylor, or Arleen Younkman on Sundays!

**Please note: There are several items you cannot pack in your Boxes so please be sure to pay attention to that list. Items include but are not limited to...No toothpaste, gum, glass or breakable items, nothing war related, no liquids, etc...again, information can be found in all of the above places for your convenience.

Let's show the children of the world how much
God loves them!

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Nifty Needlers & Cool Crafters

Meet Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
in the Gathering Room.

All skill levels are welcome!

We are currently making crafts for the
Christmas Bazaar. JOIN US!!

COFFEE HOUR & FELLOWSHIP

October 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Let's usher in Fall with hot coffee
and baked goodies. Many of our
snowbirds will be back, so this
coffee hour will give us the chance
to fellowship and renew friendships.



Workday & Soup Lunch

November 9, 2021 ~
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
in the Gathering Room.



We need HELP in putting
the finishing touches on
items for our Christmas
Bazaar and pricing those items. A Soup
Lunch will be served at noon. We will also
be asking for volunteers to bake cookies,
pies, breads, etc., for our bake sale at the
Bazaar. The proceeds from the Bazaar are
donated to missions both local and interna-
tional. We appreciate your support.

PW Planning Meetings are held on the first
Wednesday of the month. All women who attend
First Presbyterian Church are
Presbyterian Women!

We welcome new ideas, so join us and
let us benefit from your input!

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 4th in
THE COURTYARD &
FELLOWSHIP HALL
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



JOIN US FOR
REFRESHMENTS & SHOPPING!!

Lots of neat items for gifts or Christmas
decorations will be for sale, as well as
RADA, doggie treats, and baked goodies!

And, What a Blessing!!
*Allyson Searway of Epic Ministries will be
here to sell some of the beautiful handmade
jewelry made by the
Huichol Indian tribe in Mexico!*

The *Nifty Needlers* have been hard at work
all summer creating one-of-a-kind quilted
items and crafts for
your shopping pleasure.

There will also be a soup lunch available in
the courtyard, with the
cool stylings of *Jim Kimmins*
to entertain us!!

It promises to be a great day!



CHRISTMAS TEA &
COOKIE EXCHANGE ~
THANK OFFERING...

Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.

Put on your Christmas duds and join us at our
annual Christmas Tea. In addition to fellowship,
coffee, tea, and delicious treats, we will have a
special program. Carol Arnett will lead us in
Christmas Carols as well! The Christmas Tea is
always a very special event, so don't forget to put
this on your calendar of Christmas events!



DATE	ATTENDEES	
	In-Person	Virtually
September 5	32	49
September 12	34	41
September 19	33	49
September 26	39	25
AVERAGE	35	41

DATE	GENERAL FUND	DEACON'S FUND	TOTAL
	September 5	\$2,341	\$205
September 12	\$2,457	\$5	\$2,462
September 19	\$2,787	\$30	\$2,817
September 26	\$3,305	\$0	\$3,305
TOTALS	\$10,690	\$240	\$10,930



Contact INFORMATION



OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

CONTACT THE OFFICE:
Church Office: (928) 684-2836
fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com

CONTACT THE PASTOR:
Pastor Jonathan Evans
(928) 684-2836
Email ~ jkevans54@me.com

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
www.fpcwickenburg.org

CONTACT THE WITNESS:
fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com

WITNESS CONTRIBUTORS:
Deb Berner, Jonathan Evans,
Gail Graham, Judy Taylor, Arleen Younkman,
Marsha Hill, Cheryl Longshore,
& Sharon Reinhardt



COMMUNION SERVERS

October 3
Deborah Pinnell, Arleen Younkman,
Susie Wirsing, Cheryl Longshore

November 7
Carol Arnett, Jane Stevens, Deb Berner,
Debbie Wright & Rick Watkins

LITURGISTS

Oct 3: Dawn Gatke **Oct 10:** Guy DeChellis
Oct 17: Dawn Andrus **Oct 24:** Gail Graham
Oct 31: Arleen Younkman

USHERS

Oct 3: Arleen Younkman
Oct 10 - 31: Marsha North
November - December
Marsha North

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!



The Witness deadline for the November issue is already approaching! It's Thursday, October 20, 2021. Please double check your calendar and have all your events, meetings, and articles in via email at www.fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com or into the Church Office by the deadline!

Thanks you very much and God Bless!

October 2021

Witness

First Presbyterian Church
180 North Adams Street
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Phone: 928-684-2836

Email: fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com



HELP WANTED

**Part time office administrator needed at,
First Presbyterian Church in Wickenburg.**

Applicant to be familiar with Microsoft Office and Quick-Books programs. Job includes monitoring Email, maintaining church files, and supervising daily office operations.

12 to 16 hours per week, pay based on experience.

**Call or Email church for full job description,
or to arrange for an interview at**

928-684-2836 or fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com

FPC is a Christ-Centered Church.

