

A word from Pastor Jonathan



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Proverbs 29:18 states, “without a vision, the people perish.” As that esteemed scholar and theologian, Bob Dylan, once wrote, “The Times, they are a Changin’...” Well, given that you’ve been with me through my sermon series in January on a vision for First Pres, I’d like to go back and share some thoughts about vision. I share these thoughts from a favorite passage that has instilled God’s vision in me, because as Paul says in Galatians, “my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!” This has been my desire and hope for First Pres. Christ formed in you, AND me! It continues all throughout our lives. It is also called sanctification. Throughout 2025, go back and you will find that my sermons were very intentionally focused on this singular goal—knowing Christ, finding our identity in Christ as individuals and as a church, and growth in Christ. Christ being formed in us.

Vision has continued to be the most exciting part of the last year and a half and the most challenging, because it is a continuing vision that will stretch you as people of God, and as a church! Read through the Bible thoroughly and you will see that God loves to stretch his people! His vision for your ministry will do just that. Rest assured that his vision for you is

going to cause us to do things that we’ve probably never done before, to exceed the barriers we assumed were impenetrable obstacles. But we can do all things in Christ!

In a secularized culture like ours, simply knowing, loving and serving God and proclaiming Christ and living for Christ is definitely a challenge. But to do so in a groundbreaking, life-changing, effective way, is even more of a daunting task. While you may approach the implementation of this vision as something to be accomplished through a series of incremental gains, remember that the vision itself will be large enough in scope, that you will find yourselves consistently straining to develop new ideas, and new approaches to achieve the desired ends. That’s what your Vision Team sees as its calling and what they are experiencing.

I pray that it is your hope that what the Vision Team has worked tirelessly on will shape the vision for the future of First Pres. It is this new thing that God is doing. Listen to God’s word in Isaiah:

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert ... for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they

might declare my praise.”

Many of you know this next verse and have quoted it many times. It’s from Jeremiah 29:11-14. It is very applicable to First Pres in its current situation, now that I am retiring.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD ...”

Notice the importance of calling on God. Praying! Also, seeking him. How critical it will be for the future and flourishing of this church to engage wholeheartedly in exactly what God is calling you to do!

I want to share this from my late professor Gordon Fee. It is critical for you as a church to know and embrace this as God’s church here at First Pres.

“God is not simply saving diverse individuals and preparing them for heaven; rather he is creating a people for his name, among whom God can dwell and who in their life together will reproduce God’s life and character in all its unity and diversity.”

I know the ongoing prayer of the Vision Team is that as they continue to share the vision frame with you that you will interact in an intentionally Christlike manner and pray about what will be shared. It is, we believe, something that if you embrace it and are willing to live this out, it will absolutely be crucial to First Pres becoming a flourishing church, to be the people that God has called out for his name.

It has been my joy to serve in First Presbyterian Church. God has done so many things by his Spirit. So many prayers answered. Many, many changes have taken place. It has not always been an easy road. Yet, we have always sought out God’s will and always attempted to obey with all our hearts and wills. And God has continued to walk with all of us. I continue to love this church and the willing and committed people striving to follow God’s will. It has been a blessing that is almost impossible to communicate serving here for the last fifteen plus years. God has taught Gail and me so much through all the years as we have worshipped and studied and prayed and served and fellowshiped together. I have absolutely been so honored and privileged to serve here as your pastor. My deepest thanks for your amazing love and prayers. I know Gail agrees wholeheartedly.

There is no doubt that this church belongs to God, and First Pres is his. He has specifically picked you Covenant Partners and committed attenders to be part of life here and it’s no accident that he has chosen you to carry out his plan. Thanks to every one of you for embracing that task. If you’re still hesitant, please pray and seek out God’s wisdom and will. It’s my hope and prayer that everyone would continue to embrace the plan that I believe God will reveal through the Vision Team. In these challenging times reach out to one another and make sure you take care of your friends, your family, and your brothers and sisters in Christ—your First Pres family. This church will always be stronger together than simply as individuals. Together, First Pres is “the Body” of Christ!

It is my hope as we’ve gone through these years that you will continue to appreciate even more the impact you have on each other, and that this will result in a deeper love of this church and God’s good news in Jesus Christ.

Dylan was right, “The times, they are a Changin’ . . .” Retirement looms ahead of me. A search for a new permanent pastor is ahead of you. I do want to thank everyone that attended my retirement party the deepest, heartfelt thanks from both Gail and me. What a wonderful time with all of you that we love so much. You are our family and we will miss you tremendously. We are not leaving Wickenburg though. So we will see you in Safeway, and at . . . you guessed it, Starbucks! ☺

Now, as the Apostle Paul says to one of his beloved congregations, the church in Thessalonica, likewise this is how I will end this Witness article.

“We (I) always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We (I) remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you . . . The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16, 18).

In Jesus’s love,
Rev. Jonathan Evans, Pastor



From the Desk of Deb Berner

As we look ahead to the changes this year brings, it is with a full heart that I share some reflections on Pastor Jonathan’s retirement. Having served as his secretary since 2019, I have had a unique front-row seat to the dedication and love he poured into First Pres every single day.

Many of you know Jonathan for his moving sermons and his leadership in our worship services, and maybe for his books too. But behind the scenes, I have seen the quiet moments that truly define his ministry—the hours of prayer for our members, his excitement for projects like the Christmas Bazaar, and his unwavering support for our Missions, from Agua Viva to Operation Christmas Child.

To me, Jonathan has been more than a pastor; he has been a mentor and a steady friend. He has led us with a 'labor of love' that God surely honors. While the office will certainly feel different without his presence, I am so joyful that he is entering this well-deserved season of rest and new beginnings.

Jonathan, thank you for your guidance, your patience, and for the footprints you’ve left on all our hearts. We wish you a retirement filled with the same peace you have so faithfully shared with us.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Looking for a moment of peace in the middle of a busy week? Join us this **Wednesday, Feb 18th at 5 PM** for our [Ash Wednesday](#) service. It's a beautiful way to center your heart and prepare for the [season of Lent](#). Come as you are—straight from work, school, or home—and enter into a time of reflection and renewal. Please join us as we prepare for the Easter Season with worship and remembrance..



OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday - Friday
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

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LENTEN GOALS & REFLECTION PROMPTS

Daily Reflection: Where did I see God today?

Fast from social media for 1 hour each day.

Reach out to someone who might be lonely.

Practice 5 minutes of silence each morning.

Give up a specific luxury and donate the savings.

Read one chapter of the Gospels each day.

Perform one anonymous act of kindness daily.

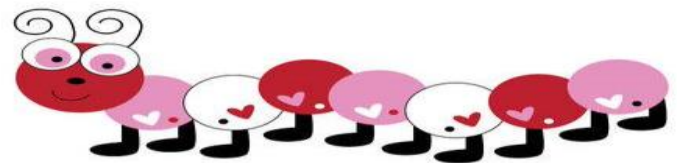


Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!



The next Witness deadline, for March 2026, will be Wednesday, February 18th. Please have all your correspondence, articles, and important things to remember, etc. into the office by that date...Please contact the office with any questions or suggestions. Thank you!



HERE IS THE DETAILED 2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

[Palm Sunday](#): March 29, 2026
Regular 9:30 Service

[Holy Thursday](#): April 2, 2026
Maundy Thursday, 5:00 pm

[Good Friday](#): April 3, 2026
Day of fasting and abstinence

[Easter Sunday](#): April 5, 2026
Resurrection of the Lord

We'll keep you posted!



GREEN BAG NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT February 14

Please bring your **Green Bags** to the Fellowship Hall Stage on the Friday before the above date. The Deacons will take the Green Bags to the CAP Office on Saturday morning. See pages 10 & 11 for more info.



Rooted in Love

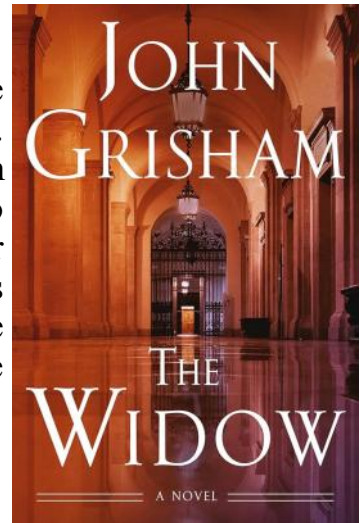
"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." — John 13:34

The Presbyterian Women had a wonderful afternoon of warmth, friendship, and yummy refreshments at their annual Valentine's Luncheon. St. Albans and Yarnell Presbyterian joined us in the fun. It was a great turnout...there were 27 women at the luncheon!

It was great to nourish our spirits and our friendships. See you next year!

Book Worms Book Club

The Book Worms meet on the First Friday of every month, unless otherwise stated. For the March book we are reading *The Widow* by John Grisham. *The Widow* is a 2025 legal thriller by John Grisham about a small-town lawyer, Simon Latch, who takes on a wealthy widow as a client, only to find himself accused of her murder and forced to find the real killer to clear his name. Published in October 2025, the book is described as Grisham's first "whodunit," focusing on a suspenseful plot where the lawyer's life unravels as he tries to uncover the truth behind his client's seemingly simple estate case.



Snacks are provided and we always have a good time discussing the current book. Please join us!

Vision Team part 2...Get Involved!

They've done the dreaming; now let's start the doing! Part 1 of our Vision Team meeting was filled with incredible ideas and shared hopes for First Pres. Now, we're gathering for Part 2 to refine those ideas and look at how we can practically live out our mission in the coming year. This isn't just a committee meeting—it's a community-building session. Join us for fellowship, prayer.

Join the **Vision Team**
for Part 2 of our flourishing
church vision.
After snacks at 11:30

- **Light Refreshments:** Provided by the Fellowship Committee

Emergency Numbers

These emergency numbers are provided by your Missions Ministry at First Presbyterian.

In addition to 911, remember these Emergency Numbers:

When in sorrow.....call John 14
 When men fail you.....call Psalm 27
 If you want to be fruitful.....call John 15
 When you have sinned.....call Psalm 51
 When you worry.....call Matthew 6:19-34
 When you are in danger.....call Psalm 91
 When God seems far away.....call Psalm 139
 When your faith needs stirring.....call Hebrews 11
 When you are lonely and fearful.....call Psalm 23
 When you grow bitter and critical.....call 1 Cor 13
 For Paul's secret to happiness.....call Col 3:12-17
 For understanding of Christianity...call 2 Cor 5:15-19
 When you feel down and out.....call Romans 8:31
 When you want peace and rest.....call Matt 11:25-30
 The world seems bigger than God.....call Psalm 90
 Need Christian assurance.....call Romans 8:1-30
 Leaving home for labor or travel.....call Psalm 121
 For a great invention/opportunity.....call Isaiah 55
 When you want courage for a task.....call Joshua 1
 To get along with fellow men.....call Romans 12
 When you think of investments....call Mark 10:17-45
 If you are depressed.....call Psalm 130
 If your pocketbook is empty.....call Psalm 137
 If you are losing confidence in people...call 1 Cor 13
 If people seem unkind.....call John 15
 If discouraged about your work.....call Psalm 126
 For dealing with fear.....call Psalm 34:7
 For security.....call Psalm 121:3
 For assurance.....call Mark 8:35
 For reassurance.....call Psalm 145:18
 When in trouble.....call Psalm 18:6

Twice As Sweet


On Valentines Day, we show our love;
 We express our deep affections.
 Those who are important to us
 Get cards and sweet confections.

But Christian love is not just for
 The ones we hold most dear;
 Jesus said "love everyone;"
 He made that very clear.

For Christians, it is every day
 We should care and love and serve
 Everyone we meet in life,
 Whether they do or don't deserve.

Let's follow Jesus' good command
 To love everyone we meet.
 Valentine's Day every day
 Will make life twice as sweet.

By Joanna Fuchs
www.poemsource.com



Session Highlights—Jan 27, 2026

- Jerry Cooper, liaison from Hope Presbytery Ministry Partnership Team, introduced himself and gave a bit of his background. The MPT has the responsibility to interview a pastor candidate to be sure the person is a good fit for the church and ECO. Before the call, it must be approved by MPT. The process will take 1-2 years. First step to decide if we want a full time or part time interim pastor.
- 'Stamp Camp' will be held as an official Fellowship Committee event, April 18, 2026, from 10 am to 2 pm, in the Gathering Room.
- The Fellowship Committee will provide snacks and beverages and a fire pit on February 14, 2026, before, during and after the Gold Rush Days Parade. Volunteers are needed to help in the booth.
- The February, 2026, Stated Session meeting will be Wednesday, February 25, 2026, to accommodate Moderator Ron Hawkins.
- Wickenburg Art Club will use the dirt parking lot for Gold Rush vendor storage parking February 12-15, 2026.



February 15	E & M
February 22	Fellowship
March 1	Missions
March 8	PW Women
March 15	Praise Team & Bell Choir
March 22	Session
March 29	Vision Team
April 5	Volunteers
April 12	Worship

You're Invited: April Stampin' Up! Class – Let's Get Creative!

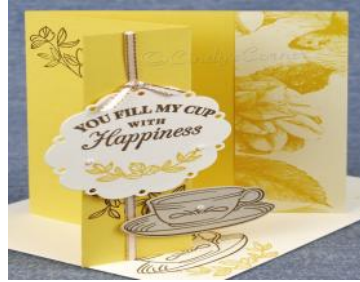
Hi Friends,

Spring is in the air, and what better way to celebrate than by getting together for some creative fun? The Fellowship Ministry is so excited to invite you to our next **Stampin' Up! class** at the First Presbyterian Church of Wickenburg.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or have never picked up a stamp before, this is the perfect time to relax, enjoy some wonderful fellowship, and create something beautiful to share with others.

Event Details:

- **When:** Friday, April 18th
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Where:** Gathering Room
- **What to Bring:** \$40, (includes 8 cards...all materials are provided), your creativity, and your lunch! **Please RSVP by April 3rd** so I can ensure I have plenty of supplies for everyone. Feel free to reply directly to this email or give me a call at the office... 928-684-2836



I can't wait to see what we create together!



GAME NIGHT!

We're hosting another **Game Night** on **Friday, March 20th at 4:00 PM**, and we would love to see you there. Bring your favorite game night snack, We have a plethora of games ready to go—from high-stakes strategy to laugh-out-loud party games—so there's something for everyone. It's going to be a wonderful evening of fun, laughter, and always, great fellowship.



- **The Snack Situation:** Please bring along your favorite game-night treat to share. (And **Ed, we're looking at you**—consider this an official summons: **those legendary brownies of yours are a requirement!**)

Can't wait to see everyone there for a fun Friday of laughs, fellowship, and good vibes.

Who's in?

A NEW CHAPTER

To my beloved church family,

It is with a heavy heart, yet a spirit filled with gratitude, that I share some news with those of you who don't know already. This coming June, I will be moving to Georgetown, TX. Moving to a new place like Georgetown is a big step, but I have faith it will bring new opportunities to me.

Being a part of this church family has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Your kindness, prayers, and unwavering support have shaped me in ways I can hardly describe. We have shared so many moments of joy, growth, and faith together, and those memories are treasures I will carry with me forever.

While I am looking forward to what this new chapter holds, leaving is very bittersweet. I care so deeply about the community I'm leaving behind and I will miss you all so much. Please know that even as I move, you will remain in my heart, thoughts, and prayers.

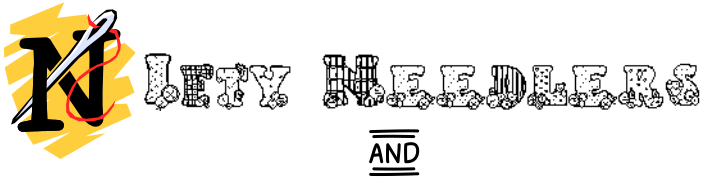
I am so thankful for the love you have shown me and for the privilege of walking alongside you in our shared journey of faith. Thank you for everything. I hope to see and speak with as many of you as possible before I leave in June. With all my love and deepest gratitude,

Deb B.

THANK
YOU!



NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Cool CRAFTERS

NIFTY NEEDLERS ARE BACK AT WORK.

Please join us from 10:00 to 3:00 or any portion of that time you can spare. All skill levels are welcome. Bring your lunch and join us in fellowship. We are a rip roaring group, so join us!



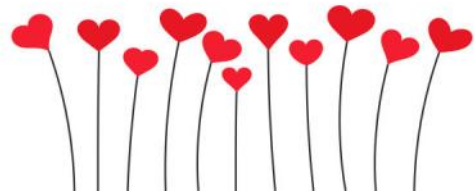
Just a reminder that all women who attend First Presbyterian Church are Presbyterian Women (PW). PW is not just a small group of women who plan events. Those women are your planning committee members who meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. Any woman who wishes to attend our meetings is welcome and we would be grateful for some fresh ideas. Remember, you are all Presbyterian Women.



Potluck

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
@ 12:00

With our sisters from St. Albans Episcopal Church and Yarnell Presbyterian Church



We are so sad to see our beloved Pastor Jonathan leaving the church for a well deserved retirement. He has served our church and its congregation well. As Rick Blakeley said at Pastor's retirement party "Well done, good and faithful servant"

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
RETIREMENT!!

Happy Valentine's Day

Your generous donation to
Wickenburg Neighborhood Food Project
will help food insecure children, families, and
seniors in Wickenburg and the surrounding areas.



Pick up dates:

- February 14th, 2026
- April 11th, 2026
- June 13th, 2026
- August 8th, 2026
- October 10th, 2026
- December 12th, 2026



Bring your **Green Bags** to the stage in Fellowship Hall by the
Friday before the pick-up dates. Thank you!



Wickenburg Community Action Partnership Food Bank

The overall poverty rate for Wickenburg is 14.16% while the poverty rate for females is 18.25% and for working females is 15.98%. The poverty level for a family of 4 is \$25,750. For many “working poor”, by the time they pay the rent and utilities, there is very little left to buy groceries. The Wickenburg Community Action Partnership (CAP) Food Bank provides more than 120 supplemental food boxes each month, 55 of them go to help Senior Citizens make ends meet and 65 go to families who find themselves in an emergency situation and are unable to buy enough food.

- Cereal: Oatmeal, Cold Cereal, low sugar types suggested
- Canned Fruit, canned in water or 100% fruit juice suggested
- Canned Vegetables, low sodium suggested
- Canned Beans: pinto, black, kidney, garbanzo
- Canned Meats: tuna, chicken spam, salmon
- Canned Soups & Stews
- Dry Pasta: whole grain suggested
- Dry Rice, Barley, other whole grains
- Dry Fruit: raisins, cranberries, prunes, dates
- Pasta or Rice mixes
- Instant Potatoes
- Shelf Stable Milk: powdered, rice, nut milks
- Nut Butters; peanut, almond, sunflower seed, etc.
- Crackers: whole grain suggested
- 100% Fruit Juice: grape, apple, cranberry, etc.

Our goal of this program is to provide nutritious and healthy foods, and therefore, it is suggested that no candy or high sugar content items be donated. For the safety of food bank recipients please make sure donated foods are not out-of-date.

		TITHES AND GIFTS		
	GENERAL FUND	DEACON'S FUND	TOTAL	
January 4	\$2,591	\$125	\$2,716	
January 11	\$2,491	\$50	\$2,541	
January 18	\$2,286	\$40	\$2,326	
January 25	\$3,574	\$10	\$3,584	
TOTALS	\$10,942	\$225	\$11,167	

		ATTENDANCE		
	In Person Service	Virtual Service	TOTAL	
January 4	46	34	80	
January 11	44	56	100	
January 18	57	37	94	
January 25	65	28	93	
AVERAGE	212	155	367	

Birthdays

Tom Jacobson
Liz Jacobson
Kerri Crowford
Deb Berner
Pat Christofferson
Mary Copus
Cheryl Longshore

FEBRUARY

February 6
February 8
February 17
February 18
February 19
February 20
February 27

Bill Pimm
Jeanine Brown
Susie Wirsing
Marsha North
Ron Pinnell
Bill Schlecht
Vance Miller

MARCH

March 4
March 7
March 14
March 16
March 18
March 19
March 29

Irene Hill
Ed Taylor
Doug Connors
Marilyn Sallee
Sam Weinschenk
Kathy DeChellis

APRIL

April 3
April 7
April 9
April 18
April 21
April 28

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(s) to our list.

CONTACT THE WITNESS
fpcwickenburg@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS:
Deb Berner, Jonathan Evans, Cheryl Longshore,
Marsha North, & Arleen Younkman

February Volunteers



COMMUNION SERVERS

February 1

Deb Berner, Gordon & Gail Graham & Marsha North

March 1

Verne Crissman, Harriet Haggett, Wendy Quine,
& Debbie Wright

April 5

Carol Arnett, Debbie Berner, Cheryl Longshore,
& Dawn Gatke

LITURGISTS

February 1: Dawn Gatke **February 8:** Carol Arnett
February 15: Susie Wirsing **February 22:** Gail Graham

March 1: Wendy Quine **March 8:** Deb Pinnell
March 15: Verne Crissman **March 22:** Deb Berner
March 29/Palm Sunday: Ron Pinnell

USHER

Marsh North

GREETER

Ginny Randall

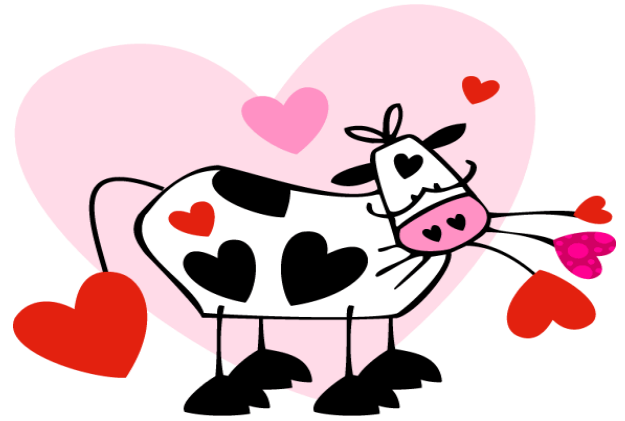
Please continue to pray for all of our Service men & women, our Civil Servants, our friends who are Home bound, in Assisted living and at home, our College Students and Missionaries. Thank you!



February 2026

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Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Phone: 928-684-2836
Email: fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com



find us on [facebook.](#)

www.facebook.com/

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

5:00 PM

Please join us as we prepare for the
Easter Season with worship and
remembrance.

