



July Witness

First Presbyterian
Church
Wickenburg, AZ

Witness July/August 2015



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"GRAY MATTERS"

A word from Pastor, Barry Gray

Gray Matters consists of things I've been thinking about with my "gray matter," but it also includes things that I think really matter in the life of the Church (locally, denominationally, and internationally). They could be matters of theology, missiology, or ecclesiology, but it is my hope that the things I write in this blog/column will matter to you; encouraging, engaging, and informing you so that you will be better equipped in your service to Jesus Christ and the community around you, all of which truly matters to him.

So, I've been thinking about how God is completely in charge of everything: The joys we celebrate, the sorrows we grieve, and even the mundane things that we never give much thought to. I believe he uses it all to help us grow up into the people he's created and called us to be. There is nothing that ever comes across our path that God cannot use to draw us closer to him, make us more mature in our faith, and to fulfill his purposes in the earth and in each one of our lives in particular.

Karin and I have done most of our ministry over the years in the East, from the Mid-Atlantic region to the state of Florida.

As I was finishing up my previous call in Bartow, Florida, I checked in with my friend, Bill Enns, who helps pastors find their next call and asked him to keep an eye out for some possibilities for me. I have to admit that I was not prepared when he said, "What do you think about Arizona?"

I told him that we didn't think about Arizona and it had never been on our radar, but we would pray about it and see how the Holy Spirit directs us. I then told him that I was willing to visit and talk with the session. When we came here

in April to meet with the session, Karin and I sensed the Holy Spirit confirming the call to us, so when the session issued the official call, we were ready to say "yes" to a brand-new adventure for both us and for you.

So, here we are. We're so thankful for the support you all have given us as we're still trying to get settled, since the moving company took way longer than expected to get our stuff here, but I am ready to dig in and learn more about this congregation (and each of you in particular) as together we seek to hear from God about his plans for our future and trust that he will lead us into both spiritual and numerical growth as we hear, adopt, and implement his plan. There will be obstacles to overcome (there always are), but there will also be joys to celebrate as we pull together to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and put what we hear into practice.

One thing you need to know is that I am a frail human being who is wholly dependent on Jesus for any gifts and abilities I may have. He's taken me through some very difficult situations in the life of several churches and in our personal lives as well, through all of which I have learned much. I love to work with teams of people and collaborate as we seek to hear God together.

I love to spend time with the saints and with the sinners, because by God's grace, I belong to both families of people.

I don't know what you're used to in a pastor, but I'm looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you. Talking with you is never a waste of my "valuable time." You are the reason I'm here, so let's find ways to enjoy each other's company as we work to build up First Presbyterian Church of Wickenburg and glorify Jesus in the community.



FUN & GAMES

Join us on Friday, July 24th, at 4:00 pm for another Fun Game Night and BBQ. Ed'll be grilling up the dogs and as usual, we'll have all the toppings you can want. Please bring your favorite summer-time side dish to share! We'll also be having Ice Cream with all their toppings for dessert! *You won't want to miss it!!*



Sunday Bible Study!!

All are Welcome to come and study the book of Ruth with us on Sunday's Starting July 19 thru August 9th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Stay for the Fellowship stay a little bit longer to be fed by God's Word.



BOOK WORMS BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet throughout the summer on Fridays at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

July 3, 2026:

Aug 7, 2026:

We hope that those of you that leave for the summer will read along with us and that you will have comments to make on the books when you return in the fall.

Please see Deborah Pinnell or Carol Arnett for more details.

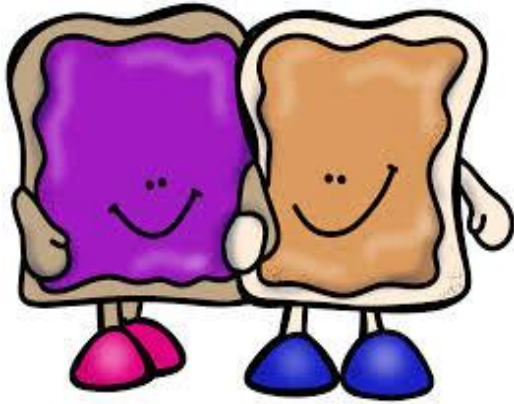


The next Newsletter deadline for the August/September issue will be Tuesday, July 15. The Newsletter deadline will always be on the third Wednesday of every month. Please double check your calendar and have all important events, dates, appreciations, etc. to the office (via email or hard copy) by that date. If there is something special you would like in the Newsletter, please email me, Deb Berner, at fpcffrontoffice@gmail.com. I also welcome any suggestions ya'll may have!

Faith Family, & Baseball!!

- **Date:** Friday, August 21, 2026
- **Game Time:** 6:40 PM MST against the Cincinnati Reds
- **Location:** Chase Field, 401 E Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ
- **Concert:** Included for all game ticket holders. Following the game, fans can move to the field or lower levels for open seating during the concert.
- Your Fellowship Ministry is try to get a group together for this event. If you are interested in going, please contact Deb Berner for all the dets! (aka, details)





♪ 100 Jars of PB&J on the Wall...♪

Bring in your Peanut Butter and Jelly jars to be donated to Project SALT to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, August 2nd, or you can bring them when you come to the Christian Academy for the Back to School Prayer Gathering at 4:00 pm!

Who is Project SALT

“We are a community-based organization, functioning as a food bank and clothing closet. Our aim is to provide bi-weekly assistance to individuals in Wickenburg and neighboring regions.”

“We are committed to offering a ‘Hand Up not a Hand Out,’ meaning that our goal is to provide individuals with the necessary tools and resources to empower them towards self-sufficiency.”

“You make a meaningful impact by donating to Project SALT Wickenburg. Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a vital role in our mission and is greatly appreciated.”

Thank you for your generous support!

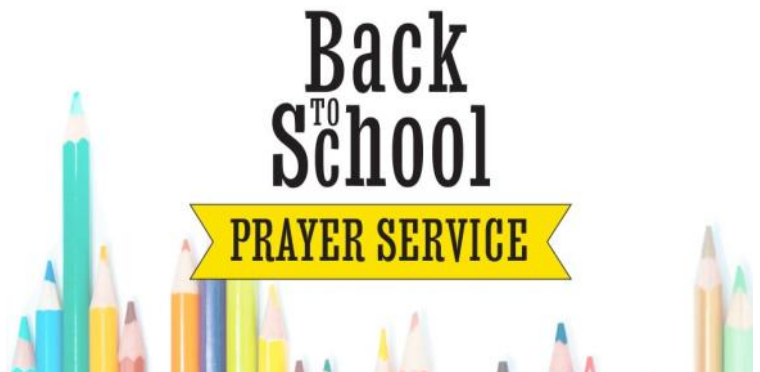


COVERING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

New year, new blessings! A brand-new school year is just around the corner, and we want to kick it off the best way we know how—together in prayer! Before the books open and the school bells ring, let's gather as a community to pray over the upcoming year!

Save the date...Sunday, August 2nd at 4:00 PM in the Lion's Den at the Christian Academy.

We'll be lifting up our amazing students, dedicated teachers, and incredible faculty, plus filling the room with awesome worship music. Bring the whole family—Come ready for great worship music and a wonderful time together. Your presence makes a difference—please join us! We can't wait to see you there!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Cheryl gone						
9:30am - Church Service 10:45am - CH-Volunteers		8am - Men of Faith Breakfast @ 10am - Nifty Needlers 3pm - Stated Session Meeting	12pm - Community Prayer	8:30am - CLEO's breakfast-Copper	Independence Day (substitute) 3pm - Book Worms Book Club-	Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cheryl gone						
9:30am - Church Service Pastor 10:45am - CH-Worship		8am - Men of Faith Breakfast @ 10am - Nifty Needlers		3pm - Special Session Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Cheryl gone						
9:30am - Church Service 10:45am - CH-Admin		8am - Men of Faith Breakfast @ 10am - Nifty Needlers	NO Witness deadline 2pm - 7Worship Ministry @ Room 2			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Cheryl gone						
9:30am - Church Service 10:45am - CH-Christian Growth 10:45am - Kimmons' Anniversary 11:30am - 1st Bible Study on Ruth		8am - Men of Faith Breakfast @ 10am - Nifty Needlers			4pm - BBQ/Game night	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Cheryl gone						
9:30am - Church Service 10:45am - CH-Deacons 11:30am - Bible Study on Ruth		8am - Men of Faith Breakfast @ 10am - Nifty Needlers 3pm - Stated Session Meeting				



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE WICKENBURG NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT: The Wickenburg Neighborhood Food Project (WNFP), is a grassroots, volunteer-driven program that makes it easy for neighbors to help feed neighbors in need. Using a simple system of reusable green bags, residents regularly donate nonperishable food that is collected and distributed to local partners serving the community. The project supports organizations such as the All Thrive 365 Food Bank, Melissas Cupboard, Wickenburg High School Green Room and Project SALT. By creating a steady, reliable flow of food donations, the project helps address food insecurity while also strengthening community connections. It matters because it transforms small, consistent acts of generosity into a meaningful safety net – ensuring that local food pantries remain stocked and that no neighbor is forgotten.

THE ALL THRIVE 365 FOOD BANK: The food bank at the All Thrive 365 office serves food-insecure members of our community, providing essential groceries to individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. WNFP contributions help keep shelves stocked and ensure that no one is turned away hungry.

MELISSA'S CUPBOARD: Melissa's Cupboard supports food-insecure residents throughout Wickenburg, with a special focus on children at the elementary school. WNFP primarily provides food for weekend meal bags and snacks, helping ensure that children have enough to eat when school meals are not available.

PROJECT SALT: WNFP provides the ingredients for the sack lunches distributed by Project SALT. These meals serve individuals experiencing homelessness as well as others facing food insecurity, offering not only nourishment but also care and dignity.

THE GREEN ROOM AT WICKENBURG HIGH SCHOOL: The Green Room provides food and basic necessities for high school students experiencing food insecurity. WNFP donations help ensure that students have access to snacks and meals, allowing them to focus on learning without the burden of hunger.

Making a Difference Together! Through these partnerships, the Wickenburg Neighborhood Food Project reaches every corner of our community—from young children to seniors, from students to those experiencing homelessness. Each donated item becomes part of a larger mission: to care for our neighbors with compassion and consistency.

Green Bag Neighborhood Food Project

DROP OFF TO THE
C.A.P. OFFICE for 2026

August 8th
October 10th
December 12th

Please have all your Green Bags to the Fellowship Hall stage the Friday before the above dates. Or, you can drop your donation off to the Fellowship Hall stage anytime.

The Deacons will see that it is delivered.

THANK YOU WICKENBURG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Nifty Needlers & Gool Graters

meet every Tuesday throughout the summer from 10 AM to 3 PM (or any portion of that time) in the gathering room. We will be making crafts and sewing projects for the Christmas Bazaar which will be held on December 5, 2026. All skill levels are welcome and can be a big help to the cause. We eat lunch at noon, so bring your lunch, check us out and come have some fun. We'll have you in stitches!! We will continue to make comfort quilts. Bring a lunch!!! There's always dessert.



The upcoming PW Coffee Hour dates for the remainder of 2026 are below.

AUGUST 23RD & NOVEMBER 15TH

The service may be ending, but the fellowship is just getting started. Join us in the Fellowship Hall right after the service. We have fresh coffee, delicious treats, and the best company in town with plenty of great conversation waiting for you. Pull up a chair and stay awhile! What a great way to wrap up your Sunday morning... with great people. See you there!

Please be at the church by 9:00 am, if possible, with your goodies and to help set-up.



SEPTEMBER 1st – PW Planning Committee will be back holding meetings on the 1st. They are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

SEPTEMBER 26th – PW is planning a Church Parking Lot Sale. Start saving all your unwanted treasures for us!!

OCTOBER 20th – Save the Date!! We'll be having a Welcome Back Luncheon Tuesday October 20th. Please see Dawn Gatke for more info.

NOVEMBER 17th – Work Day and Soup Luncheon from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or whatever time we finish...We need help to put the finishing touches on craft items for the Christmas Bazaar! All skill levels are welcome!

DECEMBER 5th – Christmas Bazaar, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This sale of holiday craft items, baked goods, etc., is PW's major fundraiser to fund their missions.

DECEMBER 15th – Christmas Tea & Cookie Exchange on Tuesday the 15th at 2:00 p.m. Bring a dozen, take a dozen-ish cookies home. We have so much fun! Join us in the Gathering Room to celebrate Christ's birth with yummy cookies & fellowship.

STAY TUNED FOR OUR 2027 EVENTS. THEY'LL BE ANNOUNCED IN A FUTURE WITNESS NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

Birthdays

Verne Crissman, July 12
 Carole Weinschenk July 14
 Sharon "Brownie" Rhymer July 16
 Harriet Haggett July 25
 Deborah Pinnell July 31



Linda Pimm Aug 5
 Jack North Aug 8
 Dawn Gatke Aug 12
 Dennis Gatke Aug 17
 Warren Ache Aug 18
 Ooni Alexander Aug 24
 Wayne Fiery Aug 25



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.



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday
 9:00 am—1:00 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Editor—Newsletter: fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com
 Website: www.fpcwickenburg.org
 Barry Gray, Pastor

CONTACT THE WITNESS

fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Pastor Barry, Deb Berner, Arleen Younkman, Dawn Gatke,
 Debbie Wright



ATTENDANCE

DATE	In Person SERVICE	Virtual SERVICE	TOTAL
June 7	36	77	113
June 14	37	30	67
June 21 / Father's Day	32	66	98
June 28	40	40	80
Total AVG.	36.25	53.25	89.5

TITHES AND GIFTS

	GENERAL FUND	DEACON'S FUND	TOTAL
June 7	N/A	N/A	N/A
June 14	\$860	\$100	\$960
June 21 / Father's Day	\$1,074	\$0	\$1,074
June 28	\$3,427	\$40	\$3,467
TOTALS	\$5,361	\$140	\$5,501

Volunteers

COMMUNION SERVERS

July 5

Deb Berner, Shirley Oney, Sharon Reinhardt,
 Susie Wirsing

August 2

Deb Berner, Dawn Gatke, Harriet Haggett,
 Arleen Younkman

LITURGISTS

July 5: Debbie Wright **July 12:** Arleen Younkman
July 19: Carol Arnett **July 26:** Susie Wirsing
Aug 2: Dawn Gatke **Aug 9:** Doug Quine
Aug 16: Deborah Pinnell **Aug 23:** Verne Crissman
Aug 30: Ron Pinnell

USHERS

During the Summer, there will be no Ushers.

GREETER

Ginny Randall

July 2026

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Email: fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com



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A graphic with the text "Happy July 4th" in a blue, cursive font. The text is surrounded by a circular arrangement of red, blue, and white stars. The entire graphic is enclosed in a rounded rectangle.

Happy July 4th