



In Touch

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Althea Halchuck | Columbarium Update



FHPC COLUMBARIUM NICHE EXPANSION WE ARE GROWING!

The FHPC Columbarium was dedicated in 1990 following an ancient custom to have burial grounds near a home church. It consists of 276 secure niches where urns holding the ashes of

loved ones are interred. It is a final resting place for the cremains of many of our church members and friends. It is located in the shadow of the Memorial Bell Tower near the entrance to the Sanctuary and shaded by mesquite and olive trees. High above, the Carillon rings out beautiful and cherished hymns of faith. A lovely fountain, beautiful landscape, and memorial benches within the Columbarium offer a peaceful and sacred setting for reflection, prayer, and meditation.

Surrounding the Columbarium is our Biblical Garden, which features plantings mentioned in sacred scriptures from the Bible. A heart-shaped, concrete walkway leads through and around the Garden, with signs indicating the names of plants with a corresponding Biblical verse. A brochure is available for a self-guided tour. I will devote an article to the Biblical Garden in a future issue of InTouch.

The Columbarium and Biblical Garden are managed by the Columbarium Trustees, a six-member committee of our church corporation elected by the Congregation for three-year terms. Current Trustees are Matt Jefferson (Chair,) Althea Halchuck, George Holtan, Dawn Lau, Bob Lull, and Jack Morris. The church does not fund or supplement the Columbarium in any way; it is fully self-sustaining. Management is provided solely by donations, niche subscriptions, memorial plaque reservations, and volunteer participation. A trust fund, managed by the Trustees, ensures proper maintenance and perpetual care of the Columbarium.

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Prayer 12



**FOUNTAIN HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
The Heart of Fountain Hills for 50 Years

OUR STAFF

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Class of 2025

Jeannette Simmons
Class of 2026

Telephone: 480.837.1763

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Focus on Finance | 2024

November Income	\$ 50,357	Budget	\$ 34,062
November Expenses	\$ 29,180	Budget	\$ 33,236
YTD Income	\$ 419,477	YTD Budget	\$ 374,682
YTD Expense	\$ 374,344	YTD Budget	\$ 355,465

Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer



November income exceeded November expenses by \$21,177. Surplus is mainly due to a generous donation made to reduce the principal on the mortgage. Year-to-date we are in a very positive financial position, with one month remaining on the books. It is not too late to turn in a pledge card for 2025. However way you choose to donate, we appreciate your support to the ministry, missions and operations of our church. Hope you had a Happy Christmas, and wishing you the best New Year's ever.

FHPC eGiving is Safe and Easy



FHPC offers church members and supporters a convenient way to express their generosity online through our eGiving portal. To get started, sign up today at www.fhpresbyterian.info. Look for the Giving Box image at the top right or click "Giving" in the top menu.

You can also use the Vanco Mobile app to give directly from your phone. For instructions, please refer to the eGiving Help section.



ARE YOU RECEIVING FHPC ELECTRONIC MAIL?

FHPC publishes *The Weekly*, Sunday Worship, News Flashes, and other communications electronically. Subscribe on our website at www.fhpresbyterian.info or contact the office at 480-837-1763 or by email at



Love God – Love People – Make Disciples



Clerk's Corner | Jack Reynolds



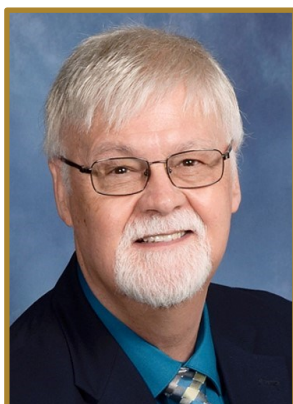
2024 was a notable year for FHPC. We were spiritually educated, challenged, and inspired from the pulpit with memorable sermons by Pastor Bob. We were also excited in October to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

We are now looking forward to 2025. Unprecedented in my 70 years of worshipping, Pastor Bob has published the title of his sermons through early May. This gives us the opportunity to share these with our friends and neighbors. A title might very well trigger an interest to hear his message. See the titles below.

After many years as Kitchen Manager which we are very appreciative of, Elder Arlene is passing the torch. Bob Titus has stepped up to take over the chores. Arlene will still be involved with church activities that involve cooking for which we are grateful. Thank you to both for this ministry.

One of the requirements of being an ECO church is for each Session to nominate an Elder Commissioner. Elder Arlene has filled this position for six years. At our December session meeting, Session voted to approve Elder Jeff Rand as our 2025 Commissioner to Hope Presbytery.

From the Pastor's Pen | Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons



As we move into a new year I will continue with my series of sermons on the life of Jesus. Plan to join us each Sunday as we **“Meet Jesus: The Greatest Life Ever Lived.”**

JANUARY:

5 - “The Baptism of Jesus”

- *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

12 - “WOMEN’S SUNDAY”

19 - “The Duel With the Devil” - *Luke 4:1-13*

26 - “The People Jesus Calls” - *Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-17; 3:13-19*

FEBRUARY:

2 - “The Uniqueness of Jesus” - *John 8:48-59; 14:1-14*

9 - “Jesus the Great Teacher” - *Matthew 4:23-5:1-2; 7:28-29*

16 - “The Favorite Subject of Jesus” - *Matthew 13:31-33; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 17:20-21*

23 - “MEN’S SUNDAY”

MARCH:

2 - “The Parables of Jesus” - *Matthew 13:10-17; 34-35*

9 - “The Miracles of Jesus” - *Matthew 16:1-4; John 20:20-31; Acts 2:22*

16 - “Jesus the Healer” - *Mark 1:40-45; 2:1-12*

23 - “The Prayer Life of Jesus” - *Mark 1:35-39; Luke 5:16; Luke 6:12-16*

APRIL:

6 - “The Arrest and Trial of Jesus” - *Luke 22:66-71; Luke 23:1-25*

13 - “The Passion of Jesus” - *Matthew 26-46; 27:27-44*

20 - “The Triumph of Jesus” - *John 20:1-18*

27 - “The Ascension of Jesus” - *Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-11*

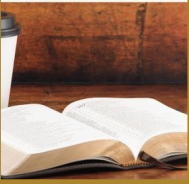
MAY:

5 - “The Promise of Christ’s Return” - *Matthew 25:1-13*

Men's Bible Study

Don Carillo

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

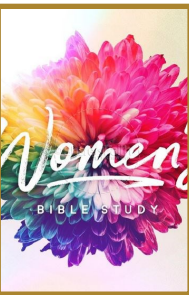


Men's Bible Study Group continues weekly every **Monday at 8:30am** in the Fireside Room. We hope to learn and gain a greater understanding of the New Testament and apply it to our daily lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Don Carillo at 480-694-3025 or carillofamily8@gmail.com We would like to see our small but steady group grow and all are welcome to attend! Thanks, Don

Women's Bible Study

Jeanette Simmons & Janet Scaggs



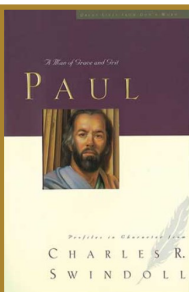
Are You Connected?

Are you currently involved in a Women's Bible Study? If not, we have exciting news for you. We offer several Women's Bible Studies (Morning, Afternoon, and Early Evening), but if you are still working or unavailable at the times offered, we have added a new session! **We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, January 7 & 21 at 6:00 p.m.** **The group meets at 17152 Kensington Place in Fountain Hills.**

For more information or any questions, please contact Jeanette Simmons (480-577-3162) or Janet Scaggs. Additionally, if you need a ride, no problem—we've got you covered! **Join us as we gather to learn, seek understanding, and find encouragement** in our Christian journey.

Women's Morning Bible Study

Monique Reynolds

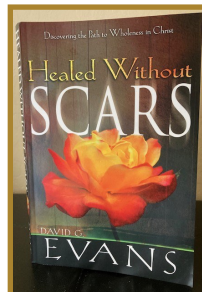


The Women's Bible Study will meet **Thursday, January 9, at 9:30 AM** in the **Fireside Room**. We will discuss Chapters 7 and 8 of our book *Paul. a Man of Grace and Grit*.

For information call Monique 336-382-8733.

Women's Afternoon Circle

Jane Allen



Healed Without Scars (Chp 9-10)
David G. Evans

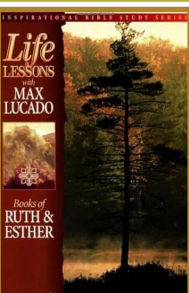
2nd Tuesday | January 7
1:00pm | Library
Jane Allen, Leader
907-538-3223

Women's Evening Circle

Judy Hamouda

Lunch & Lecture

Maria Berry



Life Lessons with Max Lucado: Books of Ruth & Esther

Next Meeting | 3rd Monday
January 20 | 4:00 p.m.
Fireside Room
Judy 480-215-0827



"Introduction" and "Parable of the Unjust Judge"

Next Meeting | Saturday
January 11 | 12:00 p.m.
Fireside Room
Maria Berry 602-799-9982

Assimilation & Fellowship Ministry

Men's Fellowship Bill Matty



Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast meeting will be on **Saturday, Jan. 11**, in the **Fellowship Hall**, starting at **8:00 am**. For any questions, you may contact Bill Matty at 815-282-6024 or bbmatty67@gmail.com.

Women's Fellowship M. Holtan & S. Titus



Women's Fellowship will be held on **Friday, January 17 at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Fireside Room**. For any questions, you may contact Susan at SLTitus@gmail.com.

Out n' About Joyce Leo & Bonnie Matty

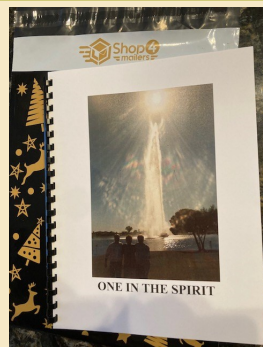


Out and About ladies will be meeting at **noon** for lunch on **January 15th, 2025**. We will be going to **Saddle Bronc Grill** at 11056 N. Saguaro Boulevard. Looking forward to seeing you. Contact Joyce Leo at 803-522-2889 or Bonnie Matty at 815-260-5031 for reservations.

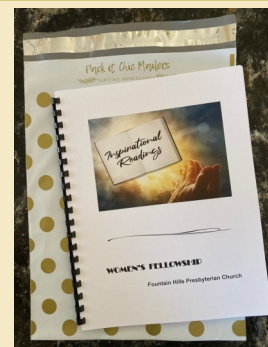
Ladies' Drop-In L. Katz & M. Berry



Every Tuesday | 10 a.m. | Fireside Room
All ladies are invited to *drop-in* for fellowship, games, puzzles, and conversation.



WANT A FINE, INSPIRATION GIFT? Choose from two beautiful FHPC books, produced by Women's Fellowship with contributions from the FHPC family. Each book comes with a festive gift bag, making it easy to mail with reasonable postage. Consider **INSPIRATIONAL READINGS** (2022, First Printing) for \$15, featuring 74 pages in color and diverse, uplifting readings, or **ONE IN THE SPIRIT** (2010, Second Printing) for \$10, with 58 pages and several meaningful readings. You can pay and pick up your book at the FHPC office, or contact Jane Allen at 907-538-3223 for more details.



Library Footnotes | Barbara Oakeson

As our church celebrated 50 years this fall, we have looked back at where we came from along with looking towards our future together. So I decided to provide some history about how our church Library Resource Center got started and grew.



With the encouragement of the Presbyterian Women's group, volunteers (included anybody in the church interested in initiating a Church Library) met in 2005 to make plans and

move forward with the project. The initial committee members were Peggy Johnson, Jean Lorenz, Sandy Dettmering, Alice Berry, Holly Holmes, Lee Fisher, Chandler Dalbey, and Barbara Oakeson. After deciding a specific purpose and objectives for the Library Resource Center, we submitted a proposal to



session which was approved February 21, 2005. It probably helped that we were not asking for any funding yet, just making use of donated books!

Initially we were located in the conference room of the church offices where there were already some book shelves with some accumulated Christian books available for our use. But that room is used for many meetings and activities which meant scheduling conflicts. In 2007 a room in the Education building became available with more space which was an ideal location for us. Sandie Guiney was Christian



Education Director and most helpful in making the move happen. There wasn't any adult size furniture in the room so the challenge was

to furnish it with no funding. About that time the

attorney Stephanie Bivens (daughter in law of John and Mary Alice Bivens) moved her law office from Phoenix to Scottsdale, bought new furnishings, and offered the furniture she no longer needed to us. All we had to do was send someone with a truck to pick it up and bring it to the church. Sandie made those arrangements and we acquired a nice conference table, five chairs, and a two piece L shaped desk that fit our needs beautifully above and beyond our expectations!



As the number of donated books continued to grow, we decided to explore some computer software programs for cataloging and processing our church library books and other media. One of our committee members



donated the funds to purchase Resource Mate 3.0 which had all the features we wanted at an affordable price. A winter visitor donated a nice book cart. At Donna Yordy's suggestion in 2008, the Presbyterian Women's group began having a Book Shower at one of their gatherings each year to acquire books on the annual PW Reading List as well as buy books on topics that we didn't have but needed, achieving more balance in our Library collection. As our operational needs for funding grew, we became part of the church budget and either someone or a small group stepped up to the plate with the financial support we needed to grow. We feel that our Library ministry is a way to touch lives, enrich faith journeys, and send God's amazing message into the world.



Support Our Troops | Donna Sims



Well, the very busy months of October and November continued into December and I can now truly say that I am 90% done as of this writing, with everything that falls under our Veterans and our Troops mission projects. With the donations of New Testaments by Men's Fellowship, my Christmas Card project doubled in time and size but I did

manage to figure out how to package and send them off, which I did last week. Boy, did I create a long line at the post office because it did take them quite some time to process all of the packages and send me out the door.



In addition to the Christmas card packages, I was also able to schedule a pick-up from Community Bridges to come to my garage. Boy, were they ever

surprised, as I was, that these particular bundles of donations turned into my largest ever. Everything from men's and women's clothing to bedding, toiletries, kitchen items, furniture, a flat screen TV, and ended with some snacks. Upon leaving my garage, they were headed straight for one of their shelters. Many sincere thanks to all of you who made donations.



And again, I kindly ask that everyone remember that our Veterans and Troops Ministry is year-round, it never stops. We continue to collect gently used clothing, bedding, socks, shoes, hats, jackets, sweatshirts, long pants, small household items and most of all, toiletries. We are always happy to see Church members and friends from our community placing items in our collection box, located in the Narthex on the East side and in the Church office. Thank you again for remembering our Veterans and our Troops. Here is wishing each one of you a happy and healthy New Year. Can't believe it's 2025. Wow.

Donna Sims,
Mission Committee

Presby Pickins' Sets Sights on February



After a January break, **Presby Pickins' Flea Market** will return on **Saturday, February 1st, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** This vibrant outreach event

welcomes hundreds of visitors to our beautiful

campus to enjoy unique vendors, delicious food, live music, and opportunities to support local causes.

February's market will kick off FHPC's annual **Souper**

Bowl food drive, encouraging attendees to bring canned food donations for **Extended Hands Food Bank.** Teen interns from the **Fountain Hills Protect Drug Coalition** will also be on hand to share information about their efforts to prevent substance abuse and promote healthy choices in the community.

Donations of items like jewelry, home décor, kitchenware, games, electronics, etc. (no furniture or clothing) are graciously accepted. Proceeds from church tables benefit FHPC ministries and local community causes. Call 480-837-1763 for drop-off arrangements.

Matt Jefferson & Althea Halchuck | Columbarium Update

(Continued from Front Cover)

The Columbarium is not restricted to church members but is available to anyone, with advanced approval from the Trustees. The subscription price was last raised 20 years ago. After surveying the local area church niche prices and availability, in early 2024, the Trustees voted to increase our niche price from \$700 to \$1,250. The subscription fee includes the \$250 brass nameplate created at the time of interment, a Veteran's medallion, along with maintenance in perpetuity.

There were 276 niches initially, but by the Fall of 2024, we had only six remaining. Fountain Hills did not want to pursue creating a Columbarium for the town, so the Trustees voted to expand our Columbarium by adding 32 niches. Our expansion goals were to maximize the number of niches, minimize the footprint, maintain the quality, and make it affordable. We received three bids for various designs and locations. They included adding niches around the Memorial Flagpole and under the fountain, which was neither practical nor aesthetically pleasing. After much deliberation, the Trustees approved the bid for 32 niches from the original niche company, Matthews' Mausoleum. We knew they would provide the same quality and design as before, and their price was affordable. Minimizing the footprint was the most challenging goal.

The new niches will be located directly across from Section "A," creating a mirror image to match the existing wall. This project has many moving parts, including removing a tree and some shrubs. We have a bid for masonry work to remove the brick wall and form a structure to insert the bank of 32 niches. A tile company will match the existing tile and encase the new niches identical to those in Section "A." We expect to start installation within a few months, have stayed within our budget, and have adhered to our list of goals. We welcome questions as we progress, so please contact any Trustee for information and updates.



Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Year number 51 for our Congregation on the Hill.

May God continue to bless this house of worship as we move on through the year. We have more folks returning in January, and those who've been visiting their families over Christmas will return. We resume with a more full choir then.



The choir has been going full speed ahead since we started in September. They are such a talented group, able to provide such a variety of styles in keeping with the changing thoughts and topics presented to us through the Christian calendar and the world as we experience it together as Christians.

There are opportunities throughout the whole year to hear wonderful musical expressions by so many talented musicians—and you, as the congregation. We are definitely blessed with a singing congregation, who sings with might and reverence.

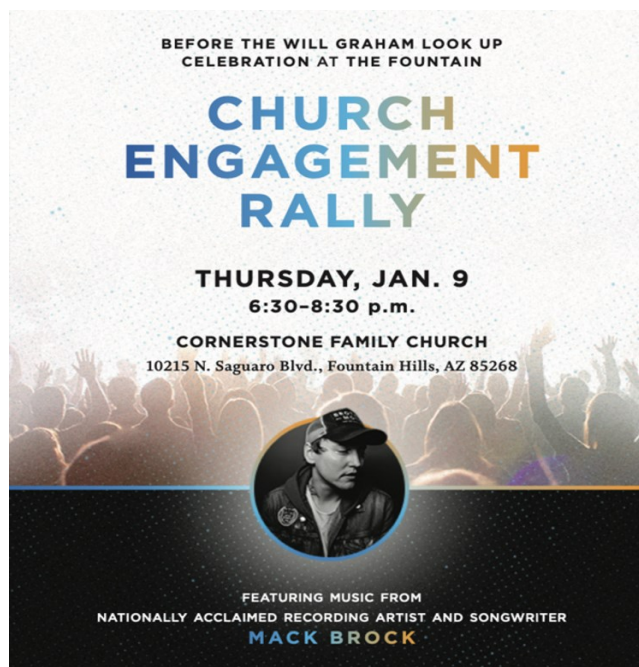
Looking forward to our 51st year with a lot of anticipation and enthusiasm as we get moving through it, one day at a time!

“Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all the people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.”

Isaiah 40:4-5

Debbie Fisher
Director of Music Ministries
Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO



Extended Communion



Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is offering **Extended Communion** at the homes of interested congregants following the regular Communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Communion at home, simply call the church office at (480) 837-1763 and ask to be added to the Extended Communion list.

Please call no later than the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

A Deacon will call you a couple of days prior to the service to confirm that you still want to receive Communion on that Sunday, and an Elder, Deacon, or both will visit you following the regular 9 a.m. service to serve Communion.

—The FHPC Board of Deacons

Sharing Our Gifts



At FHPC, we are continually inspired by the ways our congregation shares their God-given gifts—our talents, time, and treasure—to advance God’s work and spread His love. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” Every act of generosity, no matter the size, enriches our church community and demonstrates our shared commitment to making a meaningful difference.

We want to hear your stories about how you or others are sharing these gifts. Whether it’s through volunteering, supporting church initiatives, or making an impact in the community, your experiences can inspire and uplift others. Please email your stories to office@fhpresby.org to be featured in our upcoming In Touch newsletter.

Celebrate with Flowers: Honor, Memorialize, and Cherish



Honor your loved ones or celebrate special occasions by dedicating flowers in the Sanctuary. Each week, beautiful arrangements are created and available for a fee of \$35, which can be taken home after Sunday Worship.

When you dedicate flowers to honor or memorialize someone, or to celebrate a significant event, your dedication will be announced during the Welcome portion of the service and included in The Weekly. To order flowers, simply sign up in the book located in the narthex or call the church office.

The \$35 fee covers the cost of flowers, which are thoughtfully purchased and arranged by our dedicated volunteers—no commercial florist could provide such generous support. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the service, allowing you to cherish these special moments.

January Birthdays

- 1–Jan *Bob Hoffarber*
- 3–Jan *Gayle Anderson*
- 3–Jan *Carol Fuls*
- 3–Jan *Donna Yordy*
- 6–Jan *Gerry Prokupek*
- 9–Jan *Linda Lull*
- 10–Jan *Brendan Wagner*
- 15–Jan *Marge Bacher*
- 16–Jan *Jen Young*
- 22–Jan *Archie Babaian*
- 23–Jan *Jeff Rand*
- 24–Jan *Tony Harris*
- 24–Jan *Mary Ann O’Connor*

2024 Necrology

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Andy Hasley

Nancy Wulfmeier

Carole Sandrock

Orene Hinkley

Dallas Amend

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Foundation



Are You Looking for a Way to Do Good?

The FHPC Foundation is dedicated to soliciting, investing, and disbursing planned gifts from our members and friends to ensure the future needs of our church and its ministries.

We need your support! Consider making a pledge, bequest, or donation through cash or check. We also accept endorsed stocks and bonds, IRA transfers, Qualified Minimum Distributions, real estate proceeds, and trust fund designations. Have you thought about tithing your insurance policy or estate?

Every contribution, no matter the size, is gratefully accepted and makes a meaningful impact. If you need assistance with the pledge form, please call us today!

Foundation Trustees

Matt Jefferson, Chairman	Mary Holtan	Roy Nickel
Linda Lull, Treasurer	Bill Matty	Susan Titus

The FHPC Foundation is registered as a 501[c]3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Foundation’s tax ID number is 46-2970452

Biblical Garden



Visit our Biblical Garden, located at the very heart of our campus. Before embarking on your tour, explore the fascinating variety of plants featured in the Garden.

Learn about their significance and historical context online at www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden or pick up a brochure in the office for more information.

Columbarium



The Columbarium offers a serene final resting place for the mortal remains of our members and friends. In addition to the urn niches, you’ll find a Wall of Remembrance, a tranquil waterfall, and memorial benches, creating a beautiful space for prayer and meditation. This area is managed by the Columbarium Trustees, a dedicated committee of our church corporation. A trust fund ensures the proper maintenance and perpetual care of this peaceful sanctuary.

U.S. Military Medallions are available for Veterans’ columbarium niches. Please contact the church office for more information.



Covenant Partnership



Are You a Partner in FHPC?

Many of us are familiar with the concept of "Covenant Partners" at FHPC—individuals who have chosen FHPC as their "home church" and have formalized their commitment, granting them full membership rights, including the ability to speak and vote in formal church meetings.

Affiliate Partners: We welcome "Affiliate Partners" in our congregation. This acknowledges a special relationship between you and your FHPC family, supplementing your primary membership at another "home church,"

perhaps in another state. By becoming an Affiliate Partner, you affirm your active involvement in the life of FHPC. This status allows you to participate in church meetings, speak on relevant issues, with the only limitation being the right to vote. If you're interested in becoming a Covenant Partner with full membership rights or an Affiliate Partner, please reach out to Pastor Bob Simmons or contact the church office at 480-837-1763 to attend an upcoming informational meeting.

The Power of Prayer



If you are ill or recovering, hospitalized or anticipating a procedure, or going through some difficult times, please let us know so that our church family can raise you in prayer.

We publish our Prayer List in The Weekly and include healing prayers during worship. If you prefer not to publicize it, we will respect your privacy.

We have an excellent support system in place due to the diligent efforts of our Pastor and our Deacons. Help us support you through difficult times by calling the office or filling out a prayer request online.

Social Media | Live Streaming

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/fhpresbyterianchurch/



View Sunday **worship** and read current posts about FHPC. Be sure to "Like" our page to get posts directly in your Newsfeed.



YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/@fhpresbyterianchurch



View Sunday worship here under "Live." Subscribe to our Channel to receive notifications of upcoming LIVE services.

SUBSCRIBE

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