

Pastor
John Johnson
Cell: 312-933-3494
Johnjohnson1010@icloud.com

Session Members

Clerk of the Session

John Guy
520-858-3322

Treasurer

Anita Van Wagoner
520-868-4671 Cell 520-709-2771

Finance/Administration

Art Colley
209-840-1359

Property /Building

Pat Reed
520-868-4658

Congregational Care

Donna Studer
520-868-3931

Evangelism/Newsletter

Heidi Lowe
520-221-5676

Mission

ShaRon Liedl
520-430-0883
Mary Palmer
480-299-1372 or 928-580-2030
Margie Lewis
Heidi Lowe 520-221-5676

Worship

Katrina Guy
623-334-0402
Mary Palmer
480-299-1372 or 928-580-2030

Christian Education

Margie Lewis

Stewardship

John Guy
520-858-3322

Personnel

Ray Hyypa
303-941-4893 – Cell
520-251-5588 - Home

Fellowship

Laura Hofmann
520-858-2945

Bookkeeper

Jane Whitaker

Church Secretary

Beth Harmon

Prayer Chain

Patty Hyypa
303-941-4893 – Cell
520-251-5588 – Home

Memorial Garden & Columbarium

Robert or Joan Philips
520-868-0507
jkcoop@gmail.com

Church Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 – 1:00 pm



June 2020 Issue 5

The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence
Is to share Jesus Christ through word and action
With all whose lives we can touch.



P.O. Box 950
225 East Butte Avenue
Florence, AZ 85132
Ph: 520-868-5634
Fax: 520-868-3053

Email: FlorencePresby1@icloud.com

Website: www.florenceazchurch.org

Sunday Church Service

10:30 am

2. From the Pastor
4. Prayers, Birthdays & Anniversaries
5. Christian empathetic worship practice rules
6. Book Review
7. In a Different Voice
8. Mission Moments/New Information
9. Prayer in Our Daily Lives/Attention Ladies
11. The Continued Cry for Help for the Navajo Nation
12. Pentecost Story
13. Calendar

From the Pastor

While there is so much that I would like to cover, what with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on how we are functioning as a church, with the changes that it has made on how we are likely to “do” church for at least some months to come, it would simply not be responsible not to deal with the horrendous incident of the homicide of George Floyd and with aftermath of violence, destruction, and looting.

In my sermon on May 30 (31, Pentecost) I quoted this statement of Tony Dungy:

As I have watched the events in Minneapolis unfold the last few days I have wondered & prayed about how I should respond. Below are my thoughts. I hope you read the whole thing because the final thought is most important. Romans 12:21

America is in a very sad place today. We have seen a man die senselessly, at the hands of the very people who are supposed to be protecting our citizens. We have seen people protest this death by destroying property and dreams of people in their own community, the very people they are protesting for. We have many people pointing fingers of blame, painting the opposite side with a broad brush. We have anger and bitterness winning out over logic and reason. We have distrust and prejudice winning out over love and respect.

What happened to George Floyd was inexcusable and it should never happen. Justice needs to be served, but in seeking justice we can't fall into the trap of prejudging every police officer we see. What started out as peaceful protests have devolved into arson and looting and that should never happen, either. Yes there should be protest. But we do not have license to perform criminal acts because we're angry.

Today we are a divided country. We're divided racially, politically, and socio-economically. And Satan is laughing at us because that is exactly what he wants. Dysfunction, mistrust, and hatred help this kingdom flourish.

Well, what is the answer then? I believe it has to start with those of us who claim to be Christians. We have to come to the forefront and demonstrate the qualities of the One we claim to follow, Jesus Christ. We can't be silent. As Dr. King said many years ago, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!” But we can't go forward with judgmental, bitter, spirits. We need to be proactive, but do it in the spirit of trying to help make things better. *And it can't be just the African American churches. It has to be ALL churches taking a stand and saying “We are going to be on the forefront of meaningful dialogue and meaningful change.” We have to be willing to speak the truth in love but we have to recognize that we are not fighting against other people. We are fighting against Satan and his kingdom of spiritual darkness.*

In the words of the Apostle Paul, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Roman 12:21 NIV.

The italics are mine. As I indicated in my sermon, for those who have not heard or read it, Tony Dungy is an African American from Minnesota, and I remember him from his highly successful days as a quarterback for the University of Minnesota – which beat my Illini several times while he was playing. He later coached the Indianapolis Colts to the 2005 Super Bowl Championship, and is now a television “color” announcer and a very public Christian.

Of course, it is not always so easy to have dialogue about racial matters; in Arizona, there are very few African Americans – but there are many Mexican – Americans and Native Americans. We are called to model with them indifference to visible differences in the colors of our skins, but even more, to model true Christian brotherhood and sisterhood. This is something the church itself cannot really do, but each of us can! For those who live here only part of the year, I will say without hesitation that this “ethnic” diversity and cultural diversity is one of the greatest things about living in Arizona: we have European influences, Mexican influences and Native American influences all about us, and we come in regular contact with one another.

One of the most tragic aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic in this country is the uneven distribution of the disease, which I am going to say is more likely to be because of differences in the physical concentration in housing (which, granted, is economic at its roots) than anything having to do with racial hatreds or indifference. But the difference in impact, in death rates, is real, and the Navajo Nation has been particularly hard hit. Hard hit in a way that has evoked the most Christian of responses from our churches as we continue to provide what aid we can, working through Norma McCabe, the Navajo pastor of the Kayenta Presbyterian Church. She is extremely grateful for the more than \$1000 in Bashas cards (the only store on the reservation) we have sent to her, and both Community and First (Florence) are continuing to provide support – when the pandemic has ended and we are permitted to visit the reservation, I know I, personally, will do so asap.

But in addition, both the Black and Hispanic communities, nationally, are being disproportionately hit by the SARS-2 corona virus, which makes it still easier to understand the despair many must feel – not to justify any violence or lawlessness, just to be honest.

So two “plagues,” as I said on Pentecost Sunday in discussing the invasion of locusts, figurative or literal we do not know, a “plague” of which the prophet Joel whom Peter quoted that first Christian Pentecost spoke.

And plague brings me to my favorite clergyman poet, John Donne, and his words, “Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.” With apologies for grammatical gender insensitivity, because we are Christians, we are called to care for and be an example to all of God’s children. Whether our worship is “live” or recorded and watched on the Internet, we do not and cannot stop being Christ’s Church.

In His name, blessings to all,

John

ATTENTION PLEASE!!

**IF YOU WISH TO HAVE
SOMETHING PUT IN THE
NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND IT
TO newsletter225@yahoo.com**

DISCLAIMER

Articles shared or written by individuals are not necessarily the views or opinions of the church. If you have something you would like to share or something you have written, I would be happy to include them in the newsletter. All shared or written articles will be attributed to the person who sent them in.

Please be careful of copyrighted material.

Please use our new website: www.florenceazchurch.org



Pray for: Diane Wilde on loss of son, Diane's daughter-in-law, John Guy, Ed Demar, Jonathan, Art and Shirley Colley, Dave Baier, Kurt Brummage, Pastor Michael Whitaker, Ray Hyyppa, Lew and Delores Moon's Granddaughter Libby, Peggy and Neil Rathke, Bob Sherman, Allen Saunders, Gary Liedl, Ethel, David, Ira Cohen, Mindy and Kaylie, Phyllis Carlson's niece, Virginia, Neil and Peggy Rathke, Maria, Ann Schneider, BJ, John Buttram, Connie & Mark Stephens, Pat Reid, Miriam Reid, Verna Boyle, Barb Newman, Hilde Major, Pat Ron Vucso's grandson, Linda Ernst, Bonnie Brunner, Myrna Leef, Muriel Marsteller, Lois Kuder, Joann and JL Hooper, Denise and Larry Kollert, Tracy Grubb, Taren, Don Balsley (Suzan Forrest), Peggy Lowe, Carolina and family.

General:

California/ Australia

Methodists

All our Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and Veteran's around the world.



3. Holly Lowe
5. Catherine Foster
6. Phil Winn
7. Dan Rice
7. Phyllis Zwanzinger
9. Delbert Lewis
11. Art Colley
13. Nancy Blank
17. Myrna Leef
19. Eunice Baker
19. Ray Hyyppa
22. Jessie Lang
22. Amy Luke
23. Pat Vucson
24. Sandra Hartman

6. Bonnie & Leigh Stewart
9. Shirley & Steve Alberg
15. Linda & Jim Ludwig
17. Katrina & John Guy
18. Judith & Bill Johnston

**Please let me know if I missed your Birthday or Anniversary or have the wrong date. Thanks



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Christian-empathetic worship practice rules:

- 1. Everyone wear a mask going to one's seat. Recommend that everyone wear mask during worship *or sit 20 feet away from anyone else*. Masks are to show respect and consideration for others – even Sean Hannity recommends them.**
- 2. Everyone enter from side door and enter sanctuary from east door into sanctuary.**
- 3. No physical contact with other worshippers, ushers, or worship leaders.**
- 4. Sit *not closer than* in alternate (every other) pews; no more than two family groups in one pew and seek for groups to be ten feet apart.**
- 5. No hymnals, no bulletins, no collection plate passed; collection plates will be placed in front pews.**
- 6. No singing of hymns, no “Sharing the peace and joy” by physical contact.**
- 7. Exit from sanctuary will be by rows from the front and first from the east pews. East pews exit toward outside aisle, west pews exit toward center aisle.**

Book Review

A Hunter of Peace, Old Indian Trails of the Canadian Rockies

by

Mary T. S. Schaffer

with her heretofore unpublished account,

1911 Expedition to Maligne Lake. (pub. 1980)

A spectacular Rocky Mountain adventure, Mary Schaffer brings to light the many “firsts” as a white woman in the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies as she traveled on foot, horseback, and water craft in the company of various men and women who had the necessary sense of adventure and toughness required for these journeys.

Schaffer was born into a wealthy and well-educated Quaker family (her father was a scientist), and was a contemporary of the much older Isabella Bird, author of *A Lady's Life in the Rockies* (Colorado). Mary eventually married an older medical doctor turned botanist, and she developed her talents and skills as a botanical artist, writer, and a photographer who often hand-colored her lantern slides.

Widowed at 42, she continued her exploration of the Canadian Rockies in British Columbia and Alberta, accompanied by several women and men of like mind, and interacted with the Stoney Indians of the Maligne Lake region.

Her vivid descriptions of flora and fauna, the unpredictable and often dangerous weather, the rugged and beautiful geology of mountains and rivers, and the emotions experienced during search and discovery are embellished by her insightful photos, both black and white and hand-colored.

Judith Johnston



In a Different Voice

(A monthly column written and submitted by Judith Johnson)

Strange, interesting, weird, charming scary – as America becomes increasingly diverse, we are confronted by more & more people whose ways are not our ways. Yet, God seems to have spoken to His children in many different places at very different times.

Some of these diverse views will be featured each month to encourage a healthy curiosity about other spiritual writings and to open us up to possibilities for a larger spiritual awareness.

There are thousands of references to mountains among various religious writings and myths. Sacredness, power, and foundational teachings are the predominant themes.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." *Isaiah 52:7*

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Psalms 95:4

Have we not made the earth as a wide expanse and the mountains as pegs?

Sahih International Quran 78:6-7

The three conical buttes of the Sweet Grass Hills near Whitlash, Montana, are visible for over a hundred miles as they rise 3,000 feet from the prairie floor. The view can differ, depending on one's cultural background. A group of non-Native business people from Minnesota recently looked at the Hills and saw an opportunity to open-pit mine for gold.*** In contrast, local Plains tribes see a part of an intricate web connecting the people to the elements, animal beings, plant beings, tribal ceremonies, and the Creator.

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there, and I will give you tables of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." Then Moses went up on...Mount Sinai... *from Exodus 19 & 20*

There are over 2 dozen sacred mountains in China, both Buddhist and Taoist, containing shrines, monasteries, and temples that have, for millennia, encouraged humility, compassion, wisdom, and reverence for various deities and the "supreme God of Heaven."

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor...*Matthew 5:1-3*. The Sermon on the Mount, or The Beatitudes, continues through *Matthew 7:29*.

***Mining would release cyanide into the water table and turn the mountain peaks into gaping holes, destroying a sacred place of worship for several tribes., Mining in the Sweet Grass Hills has been banned until 04-09-2037.

Mission Moments



Box tops for Menaul School

We are collecting box tops to send to Menaul School as part of our mission's projects. Please cut and save them and bring to the church. They can be found on hundreds of products from pencils, cereals, frozen foods, and many others.



Donations can be made at any time, just make a note on the memo part of your check.

The Hygiene bank is temporarily closed. We will reopen in the future. Donations are needed to buy more supplies.

EXCITING NEW INFORMATION!!

One thing we realized during this extended shutdown of congregational worship is that, while for a small church we do pretty well by having a website and video-recording our sermons — and during the interim, more complete worship — and posting them on our website, where we also post our newsletters and our church calendar, we have lacked the ability to accept donations online. This has now been remedied with the help of the Presbyterian Foundation and the software people who make our “Servant Keeper” software on which we track attendance and contributions and the like (information that is limited to the church secretary and the treasurer).

By the time you receive this newsletter, that will have changed! There is a rectangle on our website that says, “Support the Mission and Missions of Our Church.” If you click on that, a page will appear on which you can make contributions by withdrawal from your checking account or with (at a modest cost to us) a credit card. You can also see the different options to which you can contribute if you wish to make a special contribution — but please never forget the needs of the church and your Session's fiduciary responsibilities to keep us faithful that includes contributions to mission.

Prayer in Our Daily Lives

Prayer is a part of our daily lives, or at least it should be. If you realize you aren't praying as much as you want to, or we sometimes feel stuck with what to say and don't have any words to express ourselves, or we feel like we are saying the words, but they don't feel like they are coming from the heart. Do we feel discouraged because it feels like God doesn't hear us? Do we only pray for others, but not for ourselves because we don't want to seem selfish? Do you break out in a cold sweat if someone asks you to pray out loud? Do you feel uncomfortable in praying with a stranger that has shared a problem they are facing? Most of us experience times when prayer is hard and God is far away. What do we do with these thoughts and feelings? Do they drive us farther away from a relationship with God because we feel guilty?

John raises up individuals and prayer concerns during worship. We have a list of people to pray for in the newsletters. We have a prayer chain. But do you feel something is missing, do you want to pray and do more and feel more involved with your prayers? I don't have the answers. I, too, experience these feelings from time to time. So what do we do? That is the question I am posing for all of you to think about. What Do we do? "Nothing" is not an acceptable answer for any of us. It has been suggested by a few people that we revisit the prayer chain and how it works and if there is a better way to do it. Is there something additional we can do individually or together as a group to help each of us help ourselves in our prayer life and to also include in a more meaningful way the prayers for others. As I stated earlier, I do not have the answers, but I am asking for suggestions, your feelings and ideas, and new or better ways to practice praying. Please feel free to give me a call (317-289-7067) email me here at the church, send me an instant message or have a discussion after worship. Prayerfully one or more of you will feel a call to become more involved and there can be discussion and action in becoming more intentional in both your own prayer life and that of the church. You will not be asked to do anything more than what you feel God is calling you to do. Who knows where God will lead us as we realize that during this chaotic time, we need God and prayer more than possibly any other time in our lives?

I recently read an excellent message from Anne Lamott that was posted on May 31 on Facebook. It starts with "I wish I had my Sunday School kids today....". Take a few minutes to look it up and read it or I can send you a link. It isn't about prayer, but it is about what is happening in our lives now. It gave me hope, guidance, some good advice and the certainty that God will work this all out in his timing. I particularly like her phrase that she shared with her kids "that grace bats last". We all need grace, we all need to show grace, and that grace will win out in the end. As we search for answers and discern how we can use prayer during these times to enrich our lives and those of others, let us give God thanks and praise for what and who we do have in our lives (that is prayer, too, you know) and then let us know we can go forward in the face of all that is happening and accomplish things we may not have thought possible with the help and the energizing power of the Holy Spirit.

Beth Harmon

ATTENTION LADIES!!

Ladies,

It has been so long since we have been able to gather and share what has been and is going on in our lives. I don't know about you, but I have certainly missed the fellowship we have been used to sharing. As restrictions begin to ease up somewhat, we have some options to consider. While many of our sisters in Christ have now returned to their summer homes, there are still several who call Florence their summer home as well as their winter home. Where do we go from here? While restaurants are opening with modifications, do we feel comfortable at this time and place in venturing out to a restaurant? If so, we can certainly restart our traditional 2nd Friday of the month luncheon.

However, there are also other possible solutions that may or may not be temporary. Any decisions we reach can always be revisited later and be modified or changed. What ideas do you have for ways to still have fellowship?

If we decide we do not feel comfortable in going to a restaurant at this time, another possibility would be to meet either in the church choir room (easier access for everyone) or in Hannah Hall and each of us would bring our own sack lunch and drink. This would be good in that we can bring exactly what we want according to our preferences and dietary restrictions (and probably save money). The number of people attending might dictate the location, however in during the summer there will be fewer attending. Meeting in the church would facilitate the ease of sharing our lives with it being a quieter atmosphere (unless we get a really wild discussion going!).

For simplicity's sake continuing with the 2nd Friday of the month makes sense if we decide to resume our monthly gathering at this time or even if we decide to wait until later in the year. There has also been some discussion about adding another get together possibly on the 4th Friday of the month, and the thought was to meet at the church in the choir room or Hannah Hall. This way we could all get to know each other a little better. And besides, the men meet twice a month so why shouldn't we? This might be a better option to add in the fall when we have more people attending, but ladies, right now there isn't a whole lot going on, so two meetings a month might just be what we need! If we move the location, it would be easier to add additional substance to our gatherings.

Some suggestions have been:

- Have some type of devotion or Bible study
- Work on mission project(s) -to be determined later
- Enjoy each other's company
- A time to bring individual personal interests such as knitting, crocheting, drawing, sewing, etc and work on our own projects while sharing conversation, much like the old fashioned quilting bee, and/or possibly helping others to learn our favorite hobbies
- All of the above, or
- ??????

If you would be interested in pursuing this activity and/or have any other suggestions, please let Jesse Laing (520-868-9585, leave a message and she will return your call) or Beth Harmon (317-289-7067) know. You may also send an email to florencepresby1@icloud.com or leave a message on the church phone (520-868-5634). Even if you are not currently in Florence, we welcome any ideas and suggestions from those who are currently residing in those cooler climates. (How wise you are!) After all we are all part of this church family and hopefully you will be joining us later on this year. We are open to other ideas as far as meeting dates, activities, or whatever.

Jessie and I ask that each of you, whether you have previously attended or not, and no matter where you are currently residing give thought to what we should do going forward to continue "feeding" (with or without food) our friendships. Please take some time to pray and discern the opportunities this "resting in place" and "staying safe" time has given us to understand what we value as a church family and personally and how we can best continue possibly new and exciting ways to share our love, friendship and talents. Please take a few minutes to respond either by phone or email as to how you would like to see the ladies of Florence Presbyterian Church grabbing this opportunity to grow and possibly create 11111 new ways of sharing our love for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit with each other and the world! Just like the census, your vote counts, so please share your thoughts and ideas.

Yours in Christ,

Beth and Jessie

The Continued Cry for Help from the Navajo Nation

Submitted by Beth Harmon

As reported last month, the First Presbyterian of Florence family donated and collected money and sent \$140.00 in Safeway gift cards (from unused gift cards remaining from a previous Thanksgiving/Christmas food box distribution) and \$900.00 in Basha's gift cards and a car load of food was sent to the Navajo Nation. If you have been watching the news, reading the papers (there are still newspapers aren't there?) or checking the internet, you are well aware that the situation there is drastic. I read where it is considered the area with the most problems of anywhere in the USA. We don't want to forget about their many problems besides the corona virus. Money is still being donated by those in our congregation to help those in need in the Navajo Nation. At this point, we do not have an easy way to get food or other supplies to them, so if you are interested in helping, we are still accepting monetary donations. If you send a check to the church, please notate in the memo section, that it is for the Navajo Nation. As you may have read in another section of the newsletter, there is also now the ability to give money through the website. Please help them by keeping them and all the medical personnel and others who have and are still contributing their time, skills and sometimes their health and lives in your prayers.

This is an excerpt taken from the weekly missive we received this week from "LAS NOTICIAS" which our church receives from our Presbytery:

Tribal communities, where our 95 Native American Presbyterian churches are located, are doing their best to help their people during this pandemic and social distancing. Tribes are giving out food, funds, conducting COVID-19 testing and have shut-down tribal facilities to protect the communities from further contamination. Yet Native people on various reservations continue to test-positively for the virus, deaths are still occurring, and much needed resources are badly needed.

The Navajo Nation exceeded New York and New Jersey for the highest per-capita coronavirus infection rate in the country. Their reservation mostly lies within the northeast corner of covers Arizona and parts of New Mexico and Utah with a 2010 census population of 173,667. They have one of the strictest stay-at-home orders in the country requiring residents not leave home only for emergencies or if they are essential workers. They must have documentation on company letterhead with a verifiable manager's contact number when they leave home.

Multiple generations live in one home. When one gets the virus then goes home, they infect the rest of the family. Thirty to forty percent of homes do not have running water preventing proper hygiene. The Navajo reservation has few grocery stores, convenience stores and gas stations to purchase food...

The Indian Health Service (IHS) reports 7,244 confirmed cases of covid-19 as of May 20th with the Navajo Nation being the hot spot. Doctors Without Borders has sent workers to the Navajo reservation to help as best they can.

Gina Gilio-Whitaker of the Colville Confederated Tribes recently argued, "We *must* change the way we inhabit the planet." If we don't, covid-19 won't be the last pandemic we see in our lifetimes. And it may not be the worst."

John's message on Pentecost Sunday had several important points to remember. He reminded us that we need to take care of each other, locally, nationally and throughout the world. We are all God's children, as sung in one of our favorite childhood hymns, "red and yellow, black and white, we are precious in his sight,

Jesus loves the little children of the world". We can be certain we are *all* God's children; God loves us all and we are called to show that love wherever we go and with whoever we meet.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

Pentecost Story

**If to exist, or to be, is to be perceived -
- as 18th century Irish philosopher George Berkeley held -
- then in what sense can anything be said to exist when it is not being perceived
?**

(Taken from Bertrand Russell's *History of Western Philosophy*)

**There was a young man who said, "God
Must think it exceedingly odd
If he finds that this tree
Continues too be
When there's no one about in the Quad."**

Reply

**Dear sir :
Your astonishment's odd :
I am always about in the Quad .
And that's why the tree
Will continue to be ,
Since observed by
Yours faithfully ,
God .**

Ronald Knox .

June

Subject to change

Attending (Worship) requires use of face masks and your own discretion.

Sermons will be available on both the church web site (florenceazchurch.com) and youtube (First Presbyterian Church of Florence).

1st Presbyterian Church, Florence, Arizona

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Holly Lowe B/D	4	5 Catherine Foster B/D	6 Bonnie & Leigh Stewart – Anniv Phil Winn – B/D
7 Trinity Sunday Dan Rice B/D Phyllis Zwanziger - B/D	8	9 Shirley & Steve Alberg – Anniv Delbert Lewis – B/D	10	11 Art Colley – B/D	12 TBD - Ladies Luncheon 11:30 am Old Pueblo	13 Nancy Blank – B/D
14 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost	15 Linda & Jim Ludwig - Anniv	16	17 TBD - Men’s Breakfast – 9:00 am Florence Grill Katrina & John Guy – Anniv	18 Judith & Bill Johnston - Anniversary	19 Eunice Baker – B/D Ray Hyyppa – B/D	20
21 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	22 Jessie Laing – B/D Amy Luke – B/D	23 Pat Vucson B/D	24 Sandra Hartman B/D	25	26	27
28 4 th Sunday after Pentecost	29	30				

Activities marked with TBD may or may not occur due to the corona virus. Please check with the church office at 480-868-5634 on Tues or Thurs from 8:30 – 12:30 before attending.

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 950
225 East Butte
Florence, AZ 85132

**The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence
Is to share Jesus Christ through word and action
with all those whose lives we can touch.**