

October 2023

# PresbyNews



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## Mission and Fall Classes Abound at Faith in October

One of the biggest things happening at Faith this month is the introduction of a whole new set of Adult Formation classes! Don't miss this lineup, which you can learn all about on Pages 6 through 8 of this edition of the Presby News. In the 'Mission' department, Hope Sunday is only a few weeks away – if you aren't familiar with this annual event, Donna Touros will be providing information on children in need of sponsorship, and how you can begin sponsoring a child of your own! See Page 3 for the details. Also, see Page 5 to learn how you can participate in the upcoming *Hope for the Homeless* fundraiser on October 21.

### Welcome and Events at Faith



Page 2: September 25, Monday Evening Book Club  
Page 10: October 25, PresbyWomen's Luncheon

### Adult Christian Formation



Pages 6 - 8: October Lineup of  
Adult Formation Classes

### Worship and Praise



Come join us this October! Here's our schedule:

### Give – Resources, Time and Talents



Page 3: October 22, Hope Sunday  
Page 5: October 21, Hope for the Homeless  
Page 14: October 1, Peace & Global Witness Offering

## Worship at Faith

### Faith Presbyterian Church

625 Florin Road  
Sacramento, CA 95831  
916-428-3439

**Pastor** Jeff Chapman

**Associate Pastor** Brett Shoemaker

### Services on Sunday

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Livestreaming at 9:00 a.m. at  
faithpresby.org

### RISE Kids' Worship

Pre-K – Grade 6  
9:00 a.m., Rooms 4 & 5

### Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation

10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Grace Room





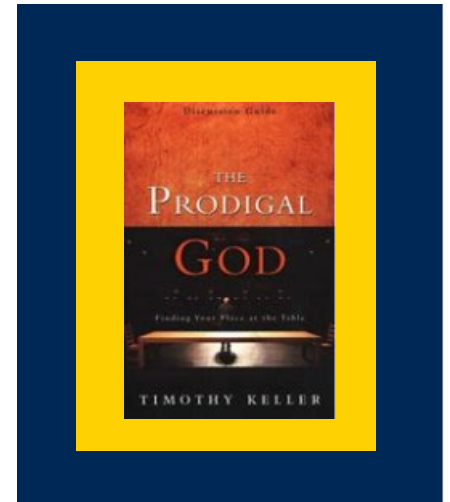
# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Monday Evening Book Club

Monday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.

We are familiar with “the prodigal son”, but **The Prodigal God**? What can that mean? Timothy Keller expands the well-known parable using his trademark intellectual approach. Newsweek magazine called Dr. Keller “the C. S. Lewis for a new century,” with the same grace and depth that captivated earlier generations. And since Timothy Keller’s death earlier this year, there is increased interest in all the wisdom he has left us.

In **The Prodigal God** we explore again God’s overflowing love for skeptics and believers alike.



Looking ahead to November, the book club will be reading Philip Yancey’s memoir, **Where the Light Fell**.

The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month. The October meeting will be Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Melodi Andersen’s home. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please contact Nancy Hom ([nneuhom@gmail.com](mailto:nneuhom@gmail.com); 916-475-2392) or Barbara Hull ([barbarah16@surewest.net](mailto:barbarah16@surewest.net); 916-616-1278). More voices make for an enriched discussion!



# HOPE SUNDAY

## World Vision Child Sponsorship Opportunities

**Sunday, October 22**

Here at **Faith Presbyterian Church**, families and individuals have been sponsoring children in the Abaya ADP of Ethiopia through our Covenant with the People of Abaya. Over the years, more than 150 children have been sponsored. We're hoping new families will join us as we are just a few years away from completing our support of the children in Abaya.

Please join us for **Hope Sunday, October 22**, to learn more about Child Sponsorship. This is your opportunity to prayerfully consider sponsoring a child in Abaya. For only \$1.30 a day (less than a cup of coffee) you can change the life of a child, and yours!



**World Vision's child sponsorship programs** focus on improving the well-being of children in need, especially the most vulnerable. WV is uniquely equipped to go to the world's most broken, heart-wrenching places. Places where it's hard to be a child. Places where other child sponsorship organizations don't often go.



World Vision takes a holistic approach, working alongside communities to tackle the root causes of poverty and create sustainable change. **For every child sponsored through World Vision, another 4 children also benefit.** That's because we work to strengthen the whole community, so all children can thrive. This is what World Vision is:

**Christ Centered:** Our Faith in Jesus is central to who we are. We follow His example of loving and working alongside the poor and oppressed.

**Child-Focused:** Everything WV does has one aim – the sustained well-being of children. We pursue the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of vulnerable children.

**Community-Based:** Local WV staff understand community challenges and opportunities. We work alongside families to help achieve a shared vision for thriving children.

**Measurable:** In 2022, World Vision used 89% of our total operating expenses for programs that benefit children, families, and communities in need.



For more information about child sponsorship and to sponsor a child please contact me.

**Donna Touros, [dtouros@comcast.net](mailto:dtouros@comcast.net)**

**World Vision Child Ambassador and Child Sponsor**

**"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."  
– Matthew 25:35**

HOPE FOR OUR  
HOMELESS NEIGHBORS  
EDUCATIONAL & FUNDRAISING EVENT

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COME AND JOIN US TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# Save The Date

SCAN THE BELOW QR CODE FOR ONLINE TICKET PURCHASING



RSVP: Call (916) 949 8863 or email [mercyholistic@yahoo.com](mailto:mercyholistic@yahoo.com)

Saturday,  
21 October 2023

4049 Marconi Ave,  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Starting from  
5:00 - 8:00 PM



## Mercy Holistic Ministry

## Upcoming Classes

### Sunday Mornings in October

#### **Digging Deeper: Reflections on the morning's Sermon**

Sundays, October 8, 15, 22, 29

10:15-10:50 a.m., Grace Room

Facilitated by the Day's Preacher

During the month of October, we will be treated to more exposition of the Scriptures used for the Sunday morning sermons. Each person preaching will offer a Q & A right after the 9:00 service. Grab your cup of coffee and gather in the front of the Sanctuary to hear more about what God has spoken to us through His word.



### Midweek Class Offered Online

#### **The Way of Community: Healing Prayer**

Wednesday Evenings

October 11 to November 15

7:00-8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom

Facilitated by Alice Parente

**See more details about this group on Page 7.**



### Sundays Mornings in November & December

#### **Five Words that Every Believer Should Know**

Sundays, November 12, 19, 26, December 10, 17

10:15-10:50 a.m., Grace Room

Facilitated by Rev. Rick Hull

What does it mean to say that we are "Christian"? In a contemporary culture where the title wavers between meaningless buzzword and derogatory stereotype, how do believers follow Peter's challenge to "always be prepared to give an account of our hope" (1 Peter 3:15)?

Bringing together the word of God and the historic theology of the Church, this course will study five biblical themes that define our faith, answer great existential questions, and equip believers to address key spiritual issues of our day with joyful confidence.

## The Way of Community, Healing Prayer

Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Zoom

October 11 through November 15, 2023

Facilitator: Alice Parente



Healing prayer has been largely ignored in the Western church. Either it doesn't happen anymore, or it has been relegated as a subset of a subset of the "gifts of the Spirit" that few really know what to do with. "Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sorry for your loss. I guess all we can do is pray." How many times do we say and receive these over-used expressions of concern...and then neglect to really pray at a deep and meaningful level? Many of us are afraid to petition God for specific things, because we are afraid He won't give us what we want.

In this class, we will seek a better understanding of healing prayer in the context of a community of faith. And we will roll up our sleeves and look at some practical aspects of how to pray for all kinds of healing in the company of others. Exploring, studying, and praying together, we will examine prayer methods that require us, at least for the moment, to have faith and to exercise that faith in a disciplined way.

Together we will engage with articles and podcasts created by renowned pioneers of faith who embraced healing prayer as a vital part of their walk with Jesus. We will learn about holy laughter in healing and about childlike approaches to healing prayer. With good humor and real life examples, we will aim to demystify this most mystifying and magnificent of gifts.

**Questions? Reach out to Alice at [vsas77@earthlink.net](mailto:vsas77@earthlink.net).**



## **“Let’s Talk”: A Place to be Heard** ***A Bimonthly Support Group***

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**First and Third Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Grace Room**

**October 3 through December 19, 2023**

**Facilitator: Ron Beams**

We all have those times in our life when we need the space to share heartfelt concerns as well as the support of a listening ear. This new support group is designed to be just such a place. “Let’s Talk” will provide attendees the opportunity to share their current or unfinished concerns in a supportive setting that is safe and confidential with judgment-free acceptance. The ultimate goal is for everyone to find healing and the ability to move forward with God's blessing and direction.

Our time together will focus on sharing and listening well to a wide range of situations which may be represented. With Ron’s many years in ministry as a hospice chaplain and grief counselor, he will facilitate the conversations and offer guidance. Towards the end of each gathering, prayer support will be offered for all participants.

This in-person group is limited to a maximum of 10 participants. It is open to anyone, including those outside of the Faith community. There is no cost to attend.

Advance registration is required. To register or to learn more about the group, contact **Ron** at **(916) 942-9996** or [rdbeams@prodigy.net](mailto:rdbeams@prodigy.net).





## Gratitude and Reflections

### From Claire Pisor, Adult Christian Formation Elder

October is a month of gratitude and thanksgiving for all who have been a part of Adult Christian Formation—both “out front” and “behind the scenes.”

- My thanks are extended to the teachers of our summer-into-fall Sunday-morning series, **“Who??? Biblical Folks Who Encourage Us”**: Dennis Montzingo, Alice Parente, Laura Anderson, Barbara Hull, Ann Johnson, and Rick Hull. Their classes were inspiring and eagerly anticipated each week as they delved into the lives of famous and not-so-famous Biblical folks through whom we see God’s handiwork in our world. Thank you to each of you!
- **Decluttering by Faith**  
Facilitated by Marlys Emery and offered again due to its popularity, this class had two offerings starting in August and ending in September. This class has been a blessing to those who have tried time and time again to “declutter” and finally found a process that will work. Thank you, Marlys!
- **“Let’s Talk”: A Place to Be Heard A Bimonthly Support Group**: Meeting on the first and third Tuesdays from October 3 to December 19, Rev. Ron Beams has begun a new opportunity to be supported in the challenges we live in these days—whether personal or stretching to community. Rev. Beams offers folks an opportunity to share in conversations of grace and healing. Thank you, Ron!
- **Faith Fall Church Retreat**  
Our 2023 retreat is completed...with beautiful weather and a great speaker in Rev. Dr. Steve Wise. Thank you to those of you who attended and shared in this time of learning and relaxation as a church community. And in case there is any doubt that this was a church community effort, let me share with you the many individuals who accepted assisted in planning, preparing for and implementing this retreat—and please forgive me if I’ve left anyone off this list:
  - **First, our staff**: **Pastors** Jeff Chapman and Brett Shoemaker; **Director of Family Ministry** Jacob Zvolanek; **Family Ministry Assistant** Madelyn Chand; **Office Manager** Laura Anderson; and **Director of Music Ministry** Mark Tootle, along with the **Worship Praise Team**.
  - **Assistant Retreat Coordinator**: Barbara Hull, and **Coordinators-in Training** Erwina and Lee Bush!
  - **Welcome Center**: Randy and Chong Smith, Bert and Barbara Brown, Dave and Jennifer Anders
  - **Shuttle Drivers**: Rick Hull and John Warren
  - **Finance Team**: Karen Chan and Jeff May
  - **Registrar**: Janelle Hendricks
  - **Coffee Coordinator**: Michelle Sweeting
  - **Hospitality Coordinators**: Roy Chastain and Chelle Ellis
  - **Sound and all things techy**: David Nash
  - **Packet Assembly**: Bonnie Schrader and Margie Montzingo
  - **Photography**: Barbara Tracy (and I’ll bet Jim was helping too!)

We are booked for 2024 so mark your calendars to “Save the Date”: **September 13 – 15, 2024**.

# Faith's Annual Ministry Faire

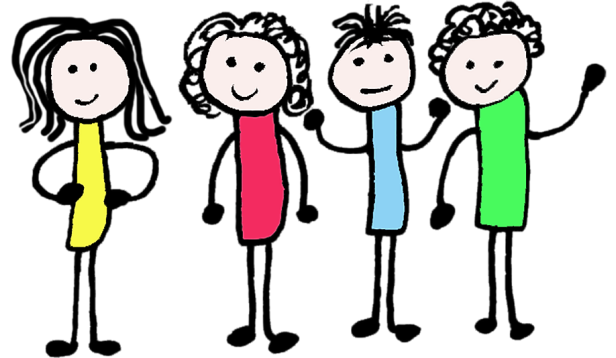
## Sunday, October 1, Between Worship Services

Have you ever wondered who Faith's elders are or what they do?  
Have you ever wondered what Faith ministry teams do? Have you ever thought about serving on one of these teams but weren't sure what is involved?



If you've ever asked yourself any of these questions, here's your opportunity to have your questions answered! On Sunday, October 1, starting at about 10:15 a.m., Faith will hold its annual Ministry Faire. Each of Faith's elders and their ministry team will have a table with information about what they do and how you can get involved.

Not only this, but there will be some delicious snacks to enjoy as you wander from table to table. So, come one, come all to hobnob with your elders!



## Presbyterian Women: October Fellowship Meeting

**Wednesday October 25, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Link Hall**

Our guest speaker will be Julie Nakayama from Julie's Purse Project.

Julie's Purse Project obtains gently used purses filled with essential items that women would want or need in their purses if they were starting over with nothing. The filled purses are delivered to nonprofit organizations throughout Northern California directly helping and impacting the lives of sex trafficking and domestic violence survivors, women being released from incarceration, Camp Fire survivors and women experiencing homelessness.

Julie's Purse Project will be the focus of our Christmas mission this year. We will be collecting items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, hair ties, lotion, shampoos, conditioners, combs, brushes, makeup, lip balm, etc. All items must be new and unused.

There will also be time to catch up with one another over lunch and to hear from our board members. We are also starting a monthly raffle basket – who knows, maybe you'll be the winner!

All Faith women are warmly invited to join us for this time of Christian friendship. Bring your lunch; drinks, chips and dessert will be provided.

Contact Kathy Ellis at [trvlkath@comcast.net](mailto:trvlkath@comcast.net) for more information



# FOCUS REPORT: STEWARDSHIP

## September Update About Faith's Stewardship Ministry

By Lucy DaCastello, Stewardship Elder

Faith's Stewardship Team members: Pastor Jeff Chapman, Jon Coupal, Julia King, John Rodriguez

Our primary task is oversight of the Stewardship Campaign. The campaign begins with a mailed letter from the Stewardship Elder followed by Commitment Sunday.

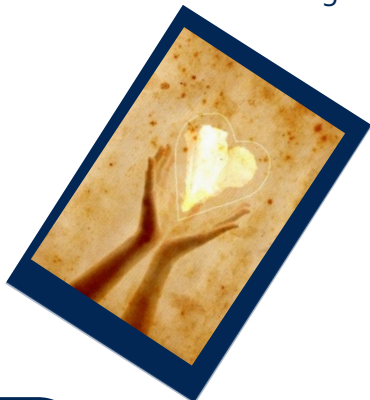
The Stewardship Team oversees requests for fundraising. Events in place annually are:

- Walk for Water
- 30 Hour Famine
- Christmas Giving Tree
- Harvest Dinner
- MVP

Stewardship Team members Jon Coupal and John Rodriguez are available to the congregation for questions regarding estate planning.

October 1, 2023, will be the culmination of our **2024 Stewardship Campaign**. In an effort to focus on stewardship as time, talents, and treasures, **Commitment Sunday** and the **Ministry Faire** will be held together. Elders will speak with the congregation in both services on September 17 and 24 to give information about their area of service as Elder and to share how the congregation's time, talents, and treasures are used for God's Work. Stewardship packets will be available for pick up after both services on September 24.

On July 17, 2022, **Smart Saver Banks** were presented between services to our elementary-age children and their families. We have 8 remaining Smart Saver Banks. Family Ministry Director Jacob Zvolanek presented the opportunity for new families to receive training and banks between services in August; however, no families responded. Jacob has advised revisiting this later in the Fall.



## September Update About Faith's Family Ministry

By Vicky Chastain, Family Ministry Elder

"Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to, alongside parents, guide and nurture our children, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of His church?" (paraphrase of the Question to the Congregation following EVERY child's baptism)

If you have answered yes (or "We do"), then YOU are an integral part of what is known as FAMILY MINISTRY!! What exactly does that mean, you ask? Family Ministry provides opportunities for **everyone** to come alongside parents who are raising their children in the faith in a variety of ways, anywhere from praying for the family who might be sitting next to you in the pew, to helping in the nursery or classes on Sunday mornings, to supporting a youth who is participating in the 30 Hour Famine, and many other ways.

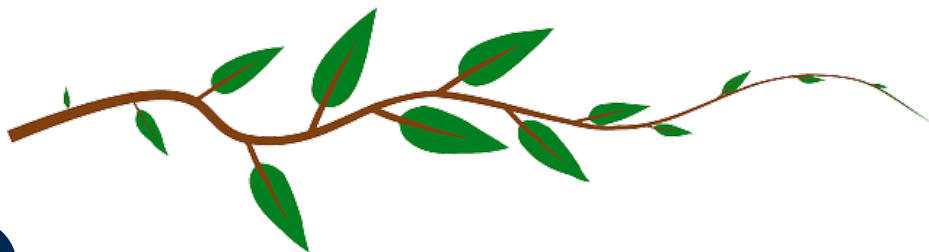
There is a dedicated group of Faith members and staff who meet monthly to plan and discuss ways to encourage and support families as they seek to make Christ known in their homes.

Currently we are blessed with the following members:

- **Brett Shoemaker, Pastor for Youth and Families**
- **Jacob Zvolanek, Director of Family Ministry**
- **Madelyn Chand, Family Ministry Assistant**
- **Cathy Healow**
- **Janet Leader**
- **Lillian Thurston**
- **Barbara Tracy**
- **Vicky Chastain, Family Ministry Elder**

The Family Ministry team is tasked with the responsibility of providing many ongoing opportunities on a weekly, monthly, and annual basis.

Thankfully we are blessed with three Faith staff members who do the "heavy lifting" required for many of these programs, as described on the next page.



**RISE KIDS' WORSHIP** is our weekly 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship experience, consisting of three children's programs: Nursery (0-3yrs), Godly Play (Pre-K thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade), and Worship & Wonder (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades). Curriculum is provided, with 20+ leaders and assistants who are mainly volunteers, plus Jacob, Brett, and Madelyn. We are mandated to provide two background-checked adults (18+) for each of these programs.

**YOUTH GROUP** (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) meets once a week, typically on Wednesday evenings under the energetic leadership of Brett, Jacob, and dedicated volunteers. Through messages and activities, the youth build friendships and community centered around Christ and learn how a well-nurtured faith leads to service and action.



**KIDS CLUB** is held twice a month on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders to gather, play group games, have dinner and reflect on some encouragement from scripture. The hope of this program is to build on the friendships that children develop with one another on Sundays, as well as to give them a "taste" of Youth Group.

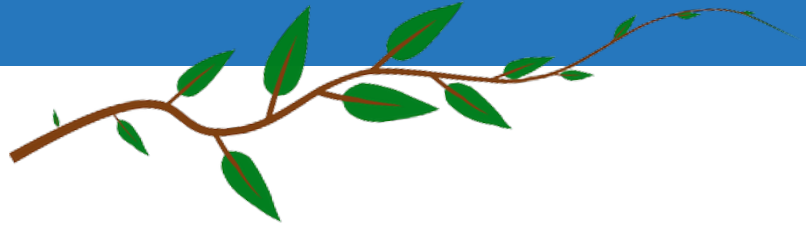
**FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP** is a monthly evening program designed to support parents in thinking through and discussing how we pass along our faith to our children. A variety of topics, speakers, and videos are provided, along with dinner and childcare.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)** is offered each summer, typically during the last full week of June. This has been a longstanding tradition at Faith, beginning in the late '80s/early '90s. Children from Pre-school age through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome, with staff members, summer interns, and youth and adult volunteers providing amazing, Christ-centered messages, music, mission opportunities, Bible stories, outdoor games, arts and crafts, and of course snacks. This year's VBS was held June 26-30 with the curriculum theme of "Twists & Turns – Following Jesus Changes the Game". Seventy-five children participated, and our mission project of providing art supplies and children's books to Family Promise was well-supported.

**VBS Main Scripture:**  
**"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths"**  
*Psalm 25:4*



## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING



### *“You are With Me”*

***“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4, NRSV)***

“God, you are with me.” What a powerful statement of faith this is! Say it with me: “You are with me.” How does that make you feel? Do you feel safe? Do you feel at peace? Do you sense the “blessed assurance” of God’s Holy Spirit in your life?

The psalmist says that even though we walk through “the darkest valley,” we fear no evil. The King James Version of the Bible, the one that many of us grew up reciting, says “the valley of the shadow of death.” The shadow represents the uncertainty in our lives. The uncertainty of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and climate change. The uncertainty of aggression through war, gun violence, human trafficking and international tensions. The uncertainty of employment, inflation and illness. Yes, the shadow of death is all around us.

Yet, in Christ, we can boldly proclaim, “You are with me. Your rod will protect me from uncertain foes who wish to do me harm, and your staff will guide me on the right path for your name’s sake. I fear no evil.” In so doing, you proclaim God’s presence of peace – peace amid uncertainty – in your own life.

As a community of faith, we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and as we do, we extend Christ’s peace throughout our community and world even in these uncertain times. Twenty-five percent of the gifts we receive will stay right here in our church to work for peace and reconciliation on a more local level. Another 25% will support the peacemaking efforts in our mid council, and 50% will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of peacemaking and global witness all around the world.

On World Communion Sunday, we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Luke’s Gospel tells us that on that very first Easter as Jesus was walking down the road to Emmaus, he met two disciples who did not recognize him. When they invited him to join them for a meal, Jesus took bread and blessed it. When he did, their eyes were opened, and their hearts were strangely warmed. They were in the “real presence” of the Risen Lord and Savior. Our hope is that when we share this holy meal, our eyes will also be opened, our hearts will be strangely warmed, and we will recognize the presence of the Risen Lord among us. Then we can boldly claim, “You are with me.”

**Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering on [World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023](#).**

