

Happy New Year

January 2024

PresbyNews



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Happy New Year 2024!

We are kicking off 2024 with a great lineup of opportunities for fellowship, worship, education and giving! This issue will highlight our at-home Winter Reflective Retreat (see Page 2), an event that has become a favorite here at Faith. We have classes starting up in January, and PresbyWomen are starting back up with their January luncheon (see Page 6). All women are invited! And, we have a new ministry for families - Check out Page 4 to read about the new Family Ministry Library on Wheels!

Welcome and Events at Faith



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Adult Christian Formation



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Worship and Praise



Come join us in January! Here's our regular schedule:

Give - Resources, Time and Talents



Page 5: A Letter from our Mission Partners

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

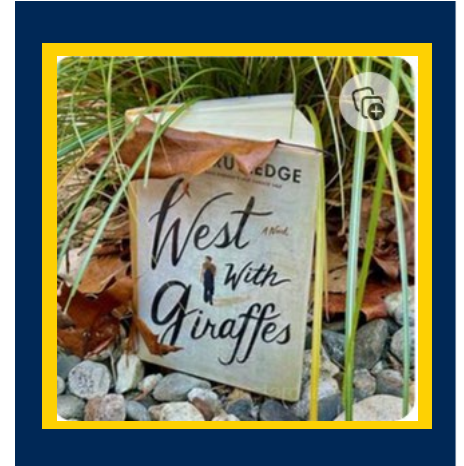
UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Evening Book Club

The Monday Evening Book Club took a break in December but resumes again in January on Monday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. The Book Club will be a combination of meeting in person at Nancy Hom's house AND meeting on Zoom.

January's selection is historical fiction, *West with Giraffes*, by Linda Rutledge. This entertaining and exciting story takes the reader across America delivering the first two giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. The giraffes survived a hurricane, only to be loaded on a truck for a twelve-day journey across the country during the Depression. The story of their journey, relayed by newspaper and radio, encouraged the whole country. Rutledge mixes fictional and real characters to tell an unforgettable story. If you have visited the San Diego Zoo, you have seen the legacy of this historic journey.

Everything Sad is Untrue (A True Story) by Daniel Nayeri is the February title. Other titles coming up this spring are: *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder, *The Next Ship Home* by Heather Webb, and *The Wager* by David Grann.



The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Monday evening of the month. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please contact Nancy Hom (nneuhom@gmail.com; 916-475-2392) or Barbara Hull (barbarah16@surewest.net; 916-616-1278). More voices make for an enriched discussion!

Join us for a Winter Reflective Retreat

You are warmly invited to take part in our second Reflective Retreat, to be held **Friday evening, January 19, starting at 6:30 p.m.** We will gather in community, seeking to deepen our experience of God's love for us and our love of God. We will turn our wonderment to observe and discern ways God is breaking into our lives. In quiet we will hear readings of Scripture in different voices, psalms, and stories. We will sing together. We will have times of silence to reflect upon our experience of God and what might be moving within us, and we will close our time together with Holy Communion. We look forward to having you come. *Please note that this retreat will not be recorded or livestreamed.*



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

January 2024, Sunday Mornings

Sunday Mornings January 14, 21, 28

Elijah: A Prophet for the Ages

10:15 – 11:15 a.m., Grace Room

Taught by Rev. Dennis Montzingo & Rev. Dr. Lorie Sprinkle



The Prophet Elijah's place and message are central to the Old Testament narrative, so much so that he sets the stage for the New Testament and the coming of the Christ. Come and join us for three Sundays in January as we learn about Elijah's 9th century B.C. prophetic ministry to Israel and his timely and timeless message to God's people of all ages in danger of being led away from God's truth and ways.

Here is an overview of our time together. Please read each focus text before that class session.

January 14 – Dennis Montzingo
"The Word of the Lord"
Focus Text: I Kings 17

January 21 – Lorie Sprinkle
"Choosing the One, True &
Living God"
Focus Text: I Kings 18

January 28 – Dennis Montzingo
"Hearing & Heeding God's Word"
Focus Text: I Kings 19

Midweek Class



Seeking God: Finding Another Kind of Life
7:00-8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom
Facilitated by Alice Parente

Join Alice Parente on Wednesdays, on Zoom starting January 3 at 7:00 p.m. to explore the topic **Seeking God: Finding Another Kind of Life**, using the book of the same name by Trevor Hudson. Jesus promised, "Seek and you will find!" Do you long for a transforming encounter with the living God? Jesus assures us that those willing to become seekers will find what their hearts most deeply desire.

Profoundly influenced by his long friendship with Dallas Willard, and his experience guiding people through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius for the last thirty years, Trevor Hudson's book offers insights into helping each of us move to encounter the living God in our lives as each chapter invites us to experience the crucified and risen Christ. Look for more information in the Sunday worship bulletins.

Sunday Afternoon Class



Sunday Afternoons
Mama Bear Apologetics
January 14 – March 3
3:00-4:00 p.m., Online via Zoom
Facilitated by Morgan Stout

This afternoon class is a first! Morgan Stout, our former Nursery Coordinator, offers this course to help all caring adults share the joy of the Gospel with children. Using the book, [Mama Bear Apologetics, by Hillary Morgan Ferrer](#), Morgan will help do just that. The book is available through Amazon for \$11.73. Participants are encouraged to read the first two chapters before the first meeting.

So just what is apologetics and why do we need it? Apologetics is simply a reasoned defense for what we believe and why we believe it. Christianity is declining rapidly, with young people leading the exodus out of the church. Inevitably, our children will be faced with ideas and worldviews that challenge their Christian faith. Do they know how to identify a cultural lie? Further, do they know how to debunk these claims with logic and grace? Rather than telling our children WHAT to think, *Mama Bear Apologetics* skillfully teaches us HOW to think critically. This book is a powerful must-read with weekly action steps designed to help you apply what you're learning to your personal life and within your family. Whether you're a mother, father, or you simply would like to learn how to defend your own faith, you'll walk away with a stronger personal faith than ever before. All are welcome in this study! **For Questions or to Register for the class, email Morgan Stout at morgandrighard@gmail.com**

BEGINNING
JANUARY 14

Family Ministry
Library on wheels

BEGINNING
JANUARY 14

FEATURED
KIDS BOOK OF THE MONTH:

FEATURED
PARENTS BOOK OF THE MONTH:

LOOK FOR THE BOOK CART IN THE HALLWAY ON SUNDAYS!

A Letter from Our Mission Partners

Dear People of Faith,

Sharon and I want to thank you for your generosity and vision for God's kingdom by stewarding some of your resources toward increasing the spiritual health of global Christian leaders, both here in the United States and across the world. That is what you are doing by partnering with us in our work with Imago Christi through Novo mission. Pretty cool, yes?!

For those of you who may not be aware, Imago Christi is the spiritual formation team of Novo, a discipling, church planting and leadership equipping mission agency with active work in 115 countries around the world. Our passion is to see pastors and missionaries thrive, not only in their ministries, but spiritually as well. We come alongside these pastors, missionaries, and other Christian leaders to help them ground their ministry in a life of abiding in the love of God and in deeper intimacy with Christ. Statistically, half of those who enter ministry drop out within the first 5 years, and 80% of pastors state that ministry is detrimental to their marriages and families. Through our work with Imago Christi we are helping to reverse these trends by offering spiritual direction, training courses, and marriage retreats, along with many other resources, to provide this much needed (and too-often overlooked) soul care and spiritual formation support. Thanks to the financial partnership of friends like you at Fatih, we are able to offer our services free or below-cost so that Christian leaders and missionaries can access the support they need without money being a barrier.

We are looking forward to sharing many of the resources of Imago Christi with the people of Faith, both online and in person. While there are many possibilities, we want to highlight specific offerings right away for you to consider, one for all of you and one specifically for your staff:

1. **Spiritual Formation Discovery (January 13, 19-21)** – for those of you who have been Christians for a while and are wondering if there is anything “more” to this Christian life, this online retreat/course may be just what you need. The Discovery course will show you how to cooperate with God in your spiritual growth in a way that gives vision and hope for a lifelong journey of love into love. To sign up or find out more, visit: <https://www.imagochristi.org/discovery>
2. **The Table Marriage and Ministry Retreat (April 18-21)** – consider sending Faith's married staff members away for three nights to revitalize their marriage and ministry by connecting with God, themselves, one another, and other couples in vocational ministry. [<https://www.thetabletreats.org/>]

Every four to six weeks, we put out an email newsletter in which we share stories from the field along with upcoming spiritual growth opportunities. If you would like to receive these emails, you can sign up at <https://gsziegler.novostaff.org/> or scan this QR code:



MORE UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Congregational Celebration

Sunday, January 21, at Noon in Link Hall

Our annual congregational celebration lunch will be held in Link Hall on January 21 after the 11:00 service. We will gather to celebrate all that God has done this past year and all that we anticipate God will do in 2024. We will elect new officers, present our 2024 Operating Budget, and honor those in our community who passed away in 2023. All members should plan to attend, and non-members are warmly welcome. Please make a reservation for lunch by using the QR code below. Or, email Laura in the office (landerson@faithpresby.org) and let her know how many there are in your party. (The lunch is free; your RSVP helps with planning. Thanks!)



Presbyterian Women: January Fellowship

Wednesday, January 24, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Link Hall

Our guest speaker will be from the Sacramento Police Department and will share information on avoiding scams and keeping safe during these uncertain times.

We will be selling raffle tickets for a gift basket, and the bazaar table will be available for your donating/shopping pleasure.

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 for more information

Getting to Know the Work of Faith's Finance Ministry

By Karen Chan, Finance Elder

The Finance Committee is trusted with the financial gifts given by the congregation to be used in our ministry and mission here at Faith Presbyterian Church. Here are some of the primary tasks our team does:

We assist with financial tasks, including tabulating the offering, writing checks, reconciling bank accounts and generating financial reports.

We record the gifts into the accounts to which they were given and then direct those funds toward their intended destinations, paying bills and supporting our mission partners. We record the Giving Pledges of our congregation and provide giving statements for all pledgers and givers of record.

We create the upcoming year's budget with input from each of the Ministry Teams. With Session approval of the budget, we then report it to the congregation at the annual meeting, along with the current financial standing of Faith Presbyterian Church.

We actively manage the functionality of our database system as members of the congregation interact with our electronic platforms through online giving and online event registration.

We arrange for an annual accounting review with an outside accounting firm. This review is conducted to verify Faith's good financial standing and to assure our givers that we are wisely stewarding and honoring their gifts.

Most importantly, we recognize that we are conduits of God's gifts from Him, through our church community, to spread His Good News to all.

Finance Team

Elder – Karen Chan

Treasurer – Jeff May

Head Teller – Kitty Tatro

Pledge Secretaries – Jennifer Smith, John Rodriguez

Memorial Fund – Roy Chastain

Staff Advisory – Jeff Chapman, Marlys Emery

Tellers/Escorts – Jarvis Arellano, Bob DeYoung, Erwina Bush,
Linda Olsen, Kitty Tatro, Paul Heaton,
Jim Tracy, Roy Chastain, Bill Edgar



Paying Taxes in Church? Per Capita Explained

Your \$31 Can Go a Long Way!

Did you know that Faith Presbyterian Church is asked to pay \$31.34 per member to our denomination? Is this a church tax? Well, not quite.

The fee, known as per capita, is a voluntary payment which congregations make to help support the larger church. As you probably know, Faith is a part of a much larger body, the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a connectional church we believe it is God's desire that we share in mission, community, and worship with those beyond the walls of our own congregation. This certainly is to extend beyond Presbyterians, but our own denomination is a good place to start.

The General Assembly describes per capita giving as, "an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of the coordination and evaluation of the mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among Presbyterians." Put simply, the per capita supports the system of government that defines the Presbyterian Church (USA) and benefits every member and congregation.

Where will Faith's per capita payment go? A portion goes to support the General Assembly, the national governing body of our denomination. There it helps to fund, among other things, General Assembly meetings, staff, ecumenical work, office space, and other administrative costs. A much larger portion of the per capita stays regionally and locally going to the Synod of the Pacific and our North Central California Presbytery, which provide local support for the member congregations similar to the support the General Assembly provides on a national level. The per capita supports the governmental glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterians.



The Session of Faith is asking that members consider making the per capita payment above and beyond your annual pledge. If you are able, we ask that you use the designated envelope in the front of your pledge box to make this payment of \$31.34 per church member in your family. Children of members and inactive members are *not* asked to pay per capita. As the Session is committed to paying the per capita for all of our members, whether or not individual members make a contribution, if we all simply made this small extra commitment it would amount to over \$11,000 which we then could instead can use for God's work here at Faith.

Whether or not you are able to make this extra payment this year, at least be encouraged that funds being sent from this congregation allow us to work with other Presbyterian churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world!

For more information on Per Capita and how it is used, go to our denominational website at:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/>



Session November & December Highlights

What is Session? Session is the governing body of our congregation. Made up of 16 members (pastors and elders) who are called by God and elected by the congregation, the Session is charged by God to oversee the ministry and mission of Faith Presbyterian Church. By God's grace, Session works hard to make sure that we are becoming, day by day, the sort of church God wants us to become – *a community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all.*

What has Session been up to lately? The following are some of the decisions that were made by Session in November and December, and some of the areas of ministry that were celebrated. We hope you share in the enthusiasm of Session in all that God is doing in our midst. As a reminder, Session meetings are held the second Monday of most every month at 7:00 p.m. here at church. Unless otherwise determined, they are open meetings and church members are always encouraged to come listen in. We'll even share our snacks!

- **Approved Updated Office Manager Position Description** – Our Personnel Team, led by Stan Keasling, is always working to make sure our staff positions descriptions are up to date and reflect both the ministry goals of Session and the jobs being done by each staff person. We spent time recently updating Laura Anderson's position description.
- **Lenten Series 2024 Approved** – Session approved a motion from our Outreach Team, led by Janeil Hogue, to use our Wednesday Evening Lenten Series gatherings this year to host a video teaching series by Timothy Keller entitled *Questioning Christianity*.
- **Our Rhythm of Celebrating the Lord's Supper** – Session took time to consider how often we should celebrate the Lord's Supper as a congregation. We considered the possibility of celebrating the sacrament every Sunday, a rhythm which many congregations embrace. We will use the upcoming Lenten season to experiment with this regularity and then evaluate afterwards.
- **De-churching and Re-churching** – Session studied a recent report that indicates that nearly 40 million people have left the church in America over the last 25 years. Those who did this study have provided resources to help local congregations address this challenge. In the New Year, Session will be engaged in further study and action to address this. Listen to the study results at <https://sites.libsyn.com/460248/the-great-dechurching-with-david-french-and-michael-graham>
- **Christmas Eve Service** – Because Christmas Eve was on a Sunday in 2023, Session voted to do only one evening service at 7:00. We will evaluate whether or not this will be a permanent change.
- **2024 Budget Actions** – Session voted in December to approve the housing allowances for Pastors Chapman and Shoemaker. Session will meet on January 7 to finalize and approve the 2024 budget, minus the terms of call for our ordained pastors, which will be approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 21.
- **SSIP Leadership** – Session approved Deb Kanner and Tom Busch to represent Faith on the board of SSIP, with our gratitude for their faithful service.

