

September 2025

PresbyNews



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Autumn at Faith

Those 100+ degree days are behind us for the year...right? Next week, perhaps! Cooler days will be here soon, and they will bring a new season of opportunities to worship and enjoy time spent with your Faith family. We have new classes starting (see Pages 3 and 4), and the Harvest Dinner will be here in just a few weeks – you can read about it on Page 9, along with the Silent Auction, always a Faith favorite. The Annual Ministry Faire is right around the corner, detailed on Page 7. Join us this fall for these activities and more!

Welcome and Events at Faith



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Worship and Praise



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Come join us for worship! See our regular schedule, posted at right.

Give – Resources, Time and Talents



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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

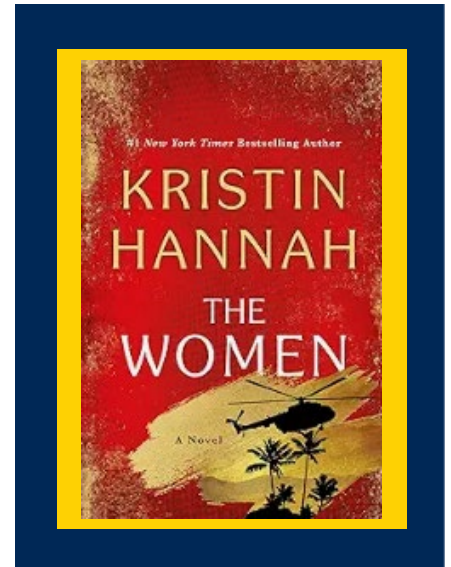
10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Grace Room

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Evening Book Club

The votes are counted, the selections made and organized! The women of the Faith Monday Evening Book Club are ready for another year of entertaining and challenging reading, plus great discussions. Please feel welcomed and encouraged to join in!

The September selection is *The Women* from award-winning author Kristen Hannah. *The Women* is about one woman's experience as a member of the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War and after returning home. Frances "Frankie" McGrath is the main character of this story, but the story shines a light on all the women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. *The Women* will be the first of our *Book Club in a Box* selections.



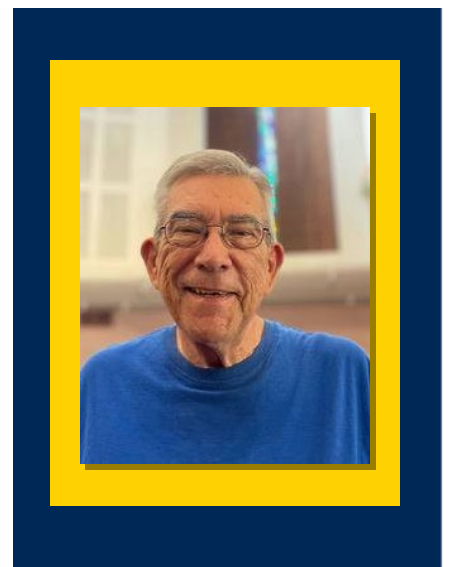
The next meeting is Monday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m., location to be decided. If you are interested in seeing the Book Club calendar and being included in Book Club emails, please contact Nancy Hom (nneuhom@gmail.com; 916-475-2392) or Barbara Hull (barbarah16@surewest.net; 916-616-1278).

Looking ahead: October's selection is *The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement* by Sharon McMahon, followed by Tracy Chevalier's newest historical fiction, *The Glassmaker* in November. May the reading begin!

Celebrating Ron Beams

After faithfully serving as Faith's Director of Congregational Care for many years, Ron Beams has retired from this position as of August 31. Please continue to reach out to Ron to express your personal gratitude for all the ways he has cared for our congregation during his time on staff. And know that there will also be an opportunity to celebrate Ron together as a community: on Sunday, October 12, between worship services (10:15), we will have a reception in Ron's honor. Please plan to be there!

If you would like to contribute towards a gift of appreciation and gratitude to be presented to Ron on that day, you may send your gift to the church office or place it in the offering basket on Sunday mornings. Make checks payable to Faith Presbyterian Church, with "Ron's Gift" on the memo line. To have your contribution included as part of the gift given on October 12, please submit by Sunday, September 28.



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

THE WAY OF JESUS: Learning to Do What Jesus Did

Dates: Wednesday Evenings on Zoom
October 1 through November 19
7:00–8:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Alice Parente



“Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life.”

Jesus’ invitation to follow Him cuts through the fact that billions are spent yearly on leadership development...and yet trust in leaders is at historic lows. Jesus asked everybody to become a follower and didn’t ask anybody to become a leader.

“Walk with me and **work with me**—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.” In Jesus’ terms, following Him isn’t passive. True followership means staying behind Him, listening, and aligning our steps with His. Following Him takes persistence, humility, risk-taking, and fierce commitment to learning His way.

But what can we *do* each day to be like Jesus? Not because we “feel like it,” but because Jesus said to do it.

“I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. **Keep company with me** and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

You are invited to an eight-week class exploring and engaging in specific practices through which we can follow the Way of Jesus.

We will practice ways to Be with Him; Become like Him; and Do as He Did.

There is no book for this class. We will be using articles, podcasts, and videos created by widely renowned apprentices of Jesus – both those who came before us and practiced His way as well as those who are alive and are practicing His way in the here and now.

If you are interested in joining or have questions, please let Alice Parente know at vsas77@earthlink.net.

* Eugene Peterson, *The Message*, Matthew 11:28-30.



Visions of the Lord: A Study of Ezekiel

September 14, 21, 28; October 19, 26; November 9, 16, 23, 30

10:15 a.m., Grace Room

Facilitator: Rev. Dennis Montzingo

Ezekiel, the Old Testament prophet to the Exile, communicates God's timeless messages to his people, who find themselves caught up in a life and a world beyond their control. As we study together the time and challenges of God's people in the 6th century B.C. who found themselves living in exile in Babylon, we will consider and discuss God's surprising and enduring presence and promises not only for their time but also for us in our ever-changing lives and world today.

Here are the chapters and themes to be covered. Participants are encouraged to read the weekly Bible passages in advance of each session.

September 14

September 21 Ezekiel 1

September 28 Ezekiel 2-3

Introduction to Ezekiel and Biblical Prophecy (no pre-reading)

Visions of God

Prophetic Calling

October 19 Ezekiel 4-7

October 26 Ezekiel 10-12

God's Judgments

God's Judgements

November 9 Ezekiel 33-34

November 16 Ezekiel 36-37

November 23 Ezekiel 38-39

November 30 Ezekiel 40-48

Shepherds

Restoration

Gog and Magog

The LORD Is There!



A SIMPLE GUIDE TO PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

As a part of our recent sermon series on the practice of prayer, we have all been encouraged to make consistent use of the Lord's Prayer as a guide for prayer. Provided here is a simple guide that can help you with that practice.

First, set aside time to be alone where you can pray the way Jesus teaches us to pray, what we call the Lord's Prayer. You can certainly pray straight through the prayer. Though if you do, try to do so slowly, paying attention to each word and phrase as you speak them to the Lord. It's also helpful to realize that what Jesus may be giving us here are categories for prayer, and an order for those categories.



So below you'll find each phrase of the prayer separated out, along with some prompts to help you expand on that phrase. Some have compared this to decorating a Christmas tree. Think about each phrase of the prayer as a bare branch on the tree. Go down the tree and "decorate" each branch, allowing Jesus' words to inspire and inform your prayers. The prompts offered may help. Keep in mind that every pronoun in the prayer is plural, meaning we are praying for others as we pray for ourselves.

Our Father in heaven... Approach as a beloved son or daughter. Offer prayers of adoration and praise to the sovereign creator and sustainer of all.

Hallowed be your name... Pray for God to reveal himself, to make his name revered in all the world, beginning with us. May every knee bow and every tongue confess.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven... Pray for Christ to come back into our world and bring his kingdom and realize his will. Pray for help in submitting our own lives to his will. Pray for our world, especially the places that currently do not resemble heaven. Pray for justice. Pray for healing.

Give us this day our daily bread... Ask God for what you and others need for today. Literal bread, yes. But also a host of other needs. Focus on today.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us... Be specific about ways we have failed to love God and others. Pray for those who have not loved you. Receive grace, extend grace.

Lead us not into temptation (or, the time of trial), but deliver us from the evil one... Ask for protection from temptations which often trip you/us up. Ask for protection from spiritual attack.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever... End where we began, in praise and adoration.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION

Come Make a Difference with SSIP!

Come and volunteer with the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) Food Closet, and be a part of the team that helps feed over 15,000 of our neighbors each month. Whether you are looking to make a change, fulfill community service, pay it forward or serve in the name of Christ, there is a place for you at SSIP! While there are many volunteer options, the Food Closet is in special need of drivers to help with pick-ups of donated food items Monday to Friday mornings. To serve in this way, you must have a good driving record and be able to lift around 40 pounds. This commitment requires less than two hours per morning each time you serve, and it involves driving to local stores in SSIP vehicles.



If you would like to volunteer, or learn more, email volunteers@ssipfoodcloset.org to get started. We hope you'll join us and discover what so many others have at SSIP: we come to serve; we stay for the community.

Rise Against Hunger

Saturday, November 15, 2025 in Link Hall

8:00 a.m., Set-up; 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Packing; Noon to 1:00 p.m., Clean-up

Rise Against Hunger is a food-packing event that the whole family can participate in. There are jobs for almost everyone, from preschoolers to seniors. This is a fun and fast-paced mission opportunity, where we challenge ourselves to pack even more food than the previous year. More details will be forthcoming, but please save the date and plan to join us as we package food that will be sent near and far to feed those who are hungry.



Not exactly Mission, but we have a Parking Lot Update!

Active work on our parking lot resumes this week, so we want to be sure you are aware of this important information: Phase two of the parking lot project will take place **this Thursday, September 4. The whole parking lot will be closed for the entire day** and likely for part of Friday as well. Please plan to park on the street if you come by the church that day. For groups that meet on Thursday, please consider gathering off site if that is an option for you. Thanks for your continuing patience as this much-needed work is done!



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Faith's Annual Ministry Faire

Sunday, October 5, 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 5, 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!



RSVP Concert at Faith!

RSVP (Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace) is a Sacramento-based vocal ensemble founded in 2000. They will be giving a free concert at Faith on November 14th at 7:30 p.m. The local charity being supported at this fall's concerts is the Firefighters Burn Institute which supports the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of those affected by burn injuries..



Presbyterian Women: Fall Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, check in at 11:15 a.m.; meeting starts promptly at 11:30 a.m – 1:00 p.m. in Link Hall

Our guest speaker will be our own Lance Pyle to share his poetry and illustrations with us.

Lance has written 42 books, including photo/essay and children's books sold worldwide. He's also a licensed architect, songwriter, Vietnam veteran and cancer survivor.

There will also be time to catch up with one another over lunch and to hear from our board members. There will be a raffle, 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.

Contact Kathy Ellis at trvlkath@comcast.net for more information.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

ROMANS 14:19: "PURSUE WHAT MAKES FOR PEACE"

The church was created to be connected. Like the classic hymn reminds us, "All who follow Jesus, all around the world. Yes, we're the church together!"

We can feel the power of the connectional church at work whenever individuals, congregations, mid councils, and our national and global partners serve together to the glory of God, creating a uniquely interconnected tapestry that reflects both the unity and diversity of God's marvelous creation. This tapestry is not only a reflection of the distinctiveness of each person, but it can also reveal the strength, beauty and power of God who connects us, even as it simultaneously demonstrates the importance of each individual thread.

Our connectional church is rooted in none other than Christ's clear call to harmonious living. The Apostle Paul tells the Roman believers that we are to pursue what makes for peace, to build each other up, and not to cast judgment on those who are different from us or have different customs or needs than our own.

Paul is inviting the Romans, and us, to break down the neat and orderly worlds we create for ourselves and experience the fullness of our diversity. This means leaving our comfort zones and seeing our neighbors, both around the corner and around the world, not as "them" but as "us," friends and siblings in Christ. Whenever we welcome and embrace one another in this way, we respond to Paul's invitation to pursue what makes for peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering helps to pursue peace in a variety of ways. Gifts to the Offering are combined with others to support Presbyterian mission and ministry around the world. Our congregation and presbytery keep a portion to help us be peacemakers in our own communities by meeting needs and ensuring that every person can flourish. Our participation in supporting this Offering helps us see the face of God in all people. May the offerings of our time, talent, and self be used by God and by our congregation to pursue what makes for peace today and in the future.

Remember, 25% of the Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking in our community. Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering on **World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025.**



HARVEST DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, September 28, starting at 4:00 p.m. in Link Hall
Tickets on sale Sundays through September 21



Tickets are available for purchase in the narthex after worship.
The price is \$10 per adult, \$5 per youth 12 to 18, and free for kids under 12.

Seeking Donations of Auction & Raffle Items

If you've attended the Harvest Dinner before, you know that a good part of the evening's fun lies in bidding on the array of items available as part of the silent auction. While many companies donate items, Faith members also contribute significantly. And so, in keeping with tradition, your Fellowship Team is inviting you to consider donating one or more items for the auction and/or raffle.

You'll find more information at the table where tickets are sold, but here are some details in brief:

- Donated items must be new.
- All donations must be dropped off by Sunday, September 14, and must be accompanied by an auction donation form. Pick up the form and get more info about how to drop off your donation from the ticket sales table in the narthex.
- Here are some ideas (but let your creativity run free!): tickets for sporting events or shows, gift certificates for restaurants or experiences, vouchers for timeshare units or vacation homes.... Or, create and fill a basket for people who love tea, coffee, wine, breakfast, pasta, picnics, game nights, stargazing, animals, global flavors, gardening.... Or, share your time and talents by offering to pet-sit, do yard work or handyman jobs, wrap Christmas gifts, cook a gourmet dinner, bake a Thanksgiving pie, teach a skill like wiring a lamp or playing pickleball.... So many possibilities!
- Please note that this year, the Fellowship Team is not able to create baskets from sundry donations as in years past. If you are unable to create and fill a whole basket (or other container) on your own, consider teaming up with others from your Life Group, book club, or other ministry/fellowship group.



Thank you for adding to the fun of our Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction! As you know, all net proceeds benefit the **Pat Tatro Memorial Campership Fund**, which helps make retreats and camp experiences more affordable. We hope to see you at the dinner-auction on September 28!



Session Highlights

What is Session? Session is the governing body of our congregation. Made up of 15 members (pastors and elders) who are called by God and elected by the congregation, 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 which were made this season at Session and some of the areas of ministry which 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 months 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!

- **Elder Karen Chan Elected as Treasurer** – At our August meeting, Karen Chan, our current elder overseeing Finance, was elected to a one-year term to serve as our church treasurer. Presbyterian polity does allow for an elder to serve in this dual role. We are grateful to Karen for her excellent leadership of our Finance Ministry!
- **Gap Year Scholarship Approved** – Sutter Kim is a college student who grew up at Faith. He has been called to spend the fall in Albania at the Crossroads Torchbearers School. (Yes, this is the same school where Pastor Jeff teaches each fall, and where we sent a team two years ago on a Vision Trip.) Faith has a longstanding goal of supporting our young adults in these sorts of gap year experience, and a fund exists to offer financial support. After receiving an application from Sutter, and hearing from him in person about his plans, Session approved his scholarship request.
- **Session Takes a Field Trip** – The elders held their August meeting off site at the SSIP Food Closet, located on the campus of Bethany Presbyterian Church. As our elders continue to prayerfully discern how the Lord is calling us to serve beyond ourselves, it was good to do so on site at our oldest mission partnership.
- **Personnel Updates** – Session received updates from Personnel Elder Stan Keasling about staff transitions in our Director of Family Ministry (Jacob Zvolanek) and Director of Congregational Care (Ron Beams) positions. The Personnel Committee continues to work on transitional and interim plans to ensure that these ministries continue in an effective manner. Our Director of Family Ministry position is already staffed on an interim basis by Lindsay Stanford and Madelyn Chand, who are sharing the position. Our Director of Congregational Care position will be staffed on an interim basis by Rev. Kimberly MacArthur.

