

October 2025 PresbyNews



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It's Time for Pumpkin Spice Anything!

October is here, and with it all the cozy reminders of God's goodness—crisp mornings, turning leaves, and yes...pumpkin spice everything. As we gather for worship, small groups, and fall events, let's savor the season together and thank the Lord for simple joys and generous grace. Read on for service opportunities and fun fellowship—there's something sweet and spicy brewing for everyone this month. For example, don't miss the Ministry Faire between services on October 5, or information on 'Rise Against Hunger' on page 6!



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

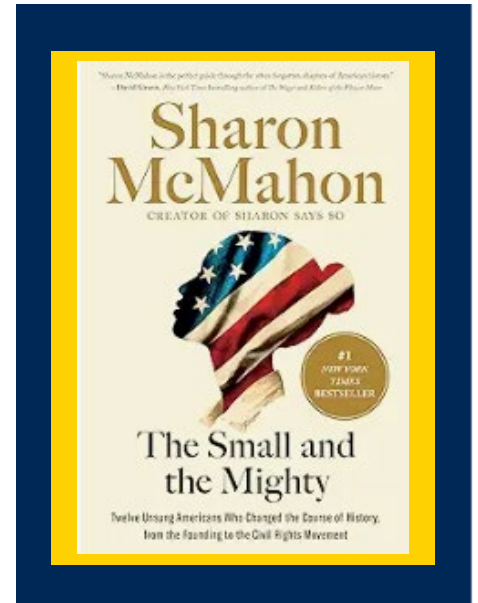
10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Grace Room

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Evening Book Club

The timing for our October book is a gift from God. "In *The Small and the Mighty*, Sharon McMahon proves that the most remarkable Americans are often ordinary people who didn't make it into the textbooks. Not the presidents, but the telephone operators. Not the aristocrats, but the schoolteachers. Through meticulous research, she discovers history's unsung characters and brings their rich, riveting stories to light for the first time." This book is inspiring! Ordinary people do extraordinary things to make the world more just when they are willing to take the next faithful step. It will challenge us!

The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Monday evening of the month. The October meeting will be Monday the 27th at 7:00. Nancy Remley-Johnson is hosting. If you are interested in joining the discussion, or would like to carpool, 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!

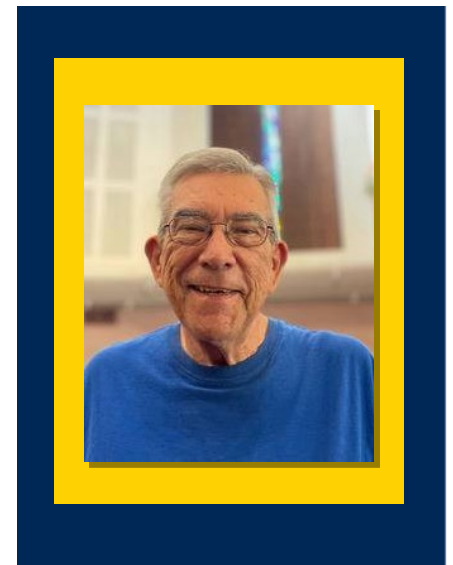


Looking ahead: November's book choice is *The Glassmaker*, by Tracy Chevalier. There is no December meeting but we begin 2026 with Percival Everett's *James*.

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.



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

Continues 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.

October 19	Ezekiel 4-7	God's Judgments
October 26	Ezekiel 10-12	God's Judgements
November 9	Ezekiel 33-34	Shepherds
November 16	Ezekiel 36-37	Restoration
November 23	Ezekiel 38-39	Gog and Magog
November 30	Ezekiel 40-48	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.



Registration is now open!

Rise Against Hunger

Saturday, November 15, 2025, in Link Hall, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is a fun and fast-paced food-packing event that the whole family can participate in. There are jobs, both sitting and standing, for almost everyone, regardless of age or physical ability. Last year we packaged 10,000 meals with time to spare. This year our goal is bolder—20,000 meals! We hope you will join us as, together, we fight against hunger.

Here is some important and helpful information to know:

- **Registration is now open!** Use the QR code at right to register. (There will also be a direct link sent in Monday's "This Week @ Faith" email.)
- **You must sign up in advance!** The amount of food that RAH sends us to package depends on the number of folks who register. If many people who are not registered show up to help, we finish early and have idle hands that could otherwise be engaged with packaging more food for hungry people. Note that when you register, you can indicate how many members of your immediate household are coming—just one registration for your whole family. Easy!
- Whether or not you can participate in the event, **you may also donate to the cause.** While the South Sacramento Rotary and Faith's own Mission team have both committed funds to this effort, any further funds donated will increase the amount of food that RAH sends us and, therefore, the total amount of food that we can package. If you would like to participate by donating, you may do so on the registration page using the same QR code at right. Or, if you prefer, you may write a check payable to Faith Presbyterian Church, with "Rise Against Hunger" on the memo line.
- **The deadline to register and/or to donate funds is Friday, November 7.** The deadline is needed to allow RAH sufficient time to order and deliver the food prior to our event.
- **Please pray!** In addition to any participation you may be able to offer through packing and/or donating, we would really love for everyone to join us in praying for a smooth and successful event here at Faith, as well as for God's protection and provision for all in our world who suffer the scourge of hunger.



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: October Fellowship

Wednesday, October 22, check in at 11:15 a.m.; meeting starts promptly at 11:30 a.m in Link Hall

Our guest speaker will be Amanda Kitaura - owner of Bloom.

Bloom is a Sacramento-based, family-owned flower farm offering floral delivery subscription services. They deliver fresh, local bouquets each week or month. Bloom uses local flowers supporting local farmers, the local economy and the local ecosystem. They also design flowers for elopements and micro-weddings and offer workshops and other amenities.

We will have 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. Bring your lunch; drinks, chips and dessert will be provided.

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

PRESBY PUMPKIN PATCH

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 24TH
4:30-7:00 PM**

**REGISTER
HERE**



**HOT DOGS
POPCORN, & CANDY
GAMES
FACE PAINTING
PUMPKIN CARVING**

WEAR YOUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY COSTUME

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
625 FLORIN RD SACRAMENTO CA 95831**

**PRESBY PATCH QR
CODE**



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.**



ANNUAL FOCUS REPORT: STEWARDSHIP

Elder: Lucy DaCastello

Report Date: September 2025

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 presentation during service by Stewardship Elder, which I presented this past Sunday. In the next week or so, a letter introducing the campaign will be emailed to the congregation and hard copies mailed to those who don't have email.

Thank you to Elders Stan Keasling, Paul Kinney, and Linda Olsen-Edgar for presenting during services in September some of the ways tithes and offerings are used in their area of ministry. It is also an opportunity to present needs of the ministry and ways the congregation can give of their time and talents.

September 28th Stewardship Packets will be available for pick up by the congregation after services. The packet contains information for the congregation to prepare for Commitment Sunday including a letter from Pastor Jeff and a pledge card. Stewardship team will assist with distributing the packets. Those not distributed will be mailed.

October 5th will be the 2026 **Commitment Sunday**. Ministry Fair will coincide with Commitment Sunday helping us focus on how we can give of our time, talents, and finances.

Jennifer Anders is working with Jeff May in setting up on-line opportunity for making pledges. Thank you to Jennifer Anders as Pledge Secretary for her ongoing commitment to receive and account all tithes and offerings as well as preparing reports of pledges.

Karen Chan, Finance Elder has had a few requests for more information about making donations from retirement accounts and non-retirement accounts. Stewardship team member John Rodriguez is the expert and contact person. His contact information is included in the letter emailed to the congregation.

Updates following Commitment Sunday will be attached to Stewardship Monthly Reports.

I am very thankful to the Stewardship Team members and Jennifer Anders for all of their expertise and advisement. Also, to Jeff May, who is willing to assist Jennifer Anders with the online opportunities.



ANNUAL FOCUS REPORT: FAMILY MINISTRY

Elder: Vicky Chastain
Report Date: September 2025

Oh MAGNIFY the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.” - Psalm 34

The **Family Ministry Team** is tasked with the responsibility of planning and providing opportunities to come alongside parents and other family members who are raising their children in the faith, finding ways to encourage families as they seek to make Christ known in their homes. Currently we are blessed with the following members, including three Faith staff members who do the “heavy lifting” required for many of the programs:

- Brett Shoemaker, Pastor for Youth and Families
- Lindsay Stanford, Interim Family Ministry Co-Director
- Madelyn Chand, Interim Family Ministry Co-Director
- Cathy Healow
- Lillian Thurston
- Barbara Tracy
- Vicky Chastain

Grow with Us is the official name of our weekly 9:00 am children’s worship opportunities, consisting of three programs: Nursery (0-3 yrs.), Godly Play (Pre-K thru 2nd grade), and Worship & Wonder (3rd thru 6th grade). Curriculum training is provided to the 20+ volunteer leaders and assistants. **Music for All** happens on the first Sunday of the month. when all of the children spend about 15 minutes together in Link Hall learning and singing familiar and new faith-based songs with Pastor Brett leading.

Kids Club (1st–6th grade) meets 2x a month on Wednesdays from 5-6:30. This group includes dinner, lessons built on Scripture for both younger and older students, and a variety of activities, games, and local mission projects providing a “taste” of youth group opportunities to come.

Youth Group (7th – 12th grade) meets once a week and is changing to Sunday evenings from 7 – 8:30 pm with the dedicated leadership of Brett, Kim Char, and Chelle Ellis. Through messages and a variety of activities the youth build friendships/community centered around Christ and learn how a well-nurtured Faith leads to service and action.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a highlight offered each summer in June. Children of pre-school age through incoming 6th graders are welcome, with staff members, youth and adult volunteers, and summer interns (this year we were blessed to have Abraham and Gianna from Whitworth College with us) providing Christ-centered messages, Bible stories, music, snacks, mission opportunities, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and of course the always popular snack station. This year's VBS was held June 23-27 with the curriculum theme of "MAGNIFIED" (based on Psalm 34:3) during which discoveries were made showing how the bigness of God is shown in the smallest of things. Over 90 children attended, and our mission project of collecting canned food and non-perishable items for the SSIP Food Closet was well-supported.

Throughout the year **Faith Family Activities** are scheduled to provide opportunities for young families to get together not only with their own family but get to know other Faith families and provide support to each other during this joyful yet challenging time of life.

Two special 'thank-yous' go out to **Lindsay Stanford** and **Madelyn Chand**, who stepped up to partner in filling the Interim Family Ministry Co-Director role after **Jacob Zvolanek** accepted a family ministry position at Fair Oaks Church shortly before VBS began. We are blessed to still have both of these women filling that position while we search for a full-time Family Ministry Director. God truly is good...all the time!

What's Up with the Narthex?

Some of the changes have been subtle, such as the cleaning and rehangng of the flags. Some of the changes have been more dramatic such as removing some furniture and décor and replacing it with "interim" pieces.

The pace is picking up as we approach The Great Reveal on November 2nd. Furniture and art pieces are arriving and placed in storage, finishing touches are being applied to the Family Room for the littlest among us. Doc DaCastello is hard at work on the storage area where the donation carts will be housed. The call is going out for Faith members who will populate the Welcome Center to meet and greet worshipers.

For even more information on the project, check out the timeline and the storyboard already in the narthex. And keep your eyes open for changes in the entrance near the office!

Those of us who have been working on The Narthex Project thank you for your prayers and encouragement over the last months. It always takes longer than we hope for a vision to become reality but we are excited about what is coming. We hope you are too!

The Narthex Project Team:

Tanya Anderson, Sue Moak and Barbara Hull



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!

- **Prayer** – As always, our Session meeting this month began in prayer. Elders took time in small groups to pray for one another personally, and to pray for the ministry of our congregation.
- **Elders Undergo Finance Training** – At our September meeting our Financial Assistant, Marlys Empey, led our elders in an excellent overview of our process for reimbursements and payments. Our finance team and staff work hard to develop and maintain financial policies and systems that display integrity and transparency. This training will be offered once a year.
- **Personnel Updates** – Session received updates from elder Stan Keasling about staff transitions in our Director of Family Ministries (Jacob Zvolanek) and Director of Congregational Care (Ron Beams) positions. Personnel continues to work on transition and interim plans to ensure that these ministries continue in an effective manner. Our Director of Family Ministries position is already staffed on an interim basis by Lindsay Stanford and Madelyn Chand, who are sharing the position. A search team has begun their work to find a permanent replacement and are in the midst of receiving applications and conducting interviews. Our Director of Congregational Care position will be staffed on an interim basis by Rev. Kimberly MacArthur.
- **Welcome Center and Narthex Upgrade** – Led by Elder Janeil Hogue and our Outreach Team, we are working to prepare for our new welcome center, which will be a part of the Narthex upgrade. We expect this to be completed in early November.
- **Nominating Committee:** Lucy DaCastello was affirmed as the chair of this year's Nominating Committee. This is the committee that will work in the coming months to nominate our next slate of elders and deacons. The committee is elected to a one-year term, though their work is generally completed when officers are elected in the winter. The following have been nominated to serve as this year's committee: Lucy DaCastello, chair; Bob DeYoung; Betty McClure; Lorraine Otani; David Zinn; Rick Stern; David Reynen. The committee is to be elected at a congregational meeting on September 28.

