

January 2026

# PresbyNews



**Faith**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Faith Rings in the New Year!

Another new year is here, and we're excited about what's ahead here at Faith. The Monday Evening Book Club is starting back up (see page 2), as are the PresbyWomen's Luncheons, with details for January's meeting on page 7. We've got a Life Group 'Taster' offering as described on page 2, and we'd like to introduce you to our newest members on page 5. So, get ready to jump in and be part of what God is doing in our community this year. It's already getting off to a great start!

### Welcome and Events at Faith



Page 2: Three-Week Life Group 'Taster'

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### Adult Christian Formation



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### Worship and Praise



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



### Give – Resources, Time and Talents

Page 8: All About Per Capita

## 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](http://faithpresby.org)

### RISE Kids' Worship

Pre-K – Grade 6

9:00 a.m., Rooms 4 & 5

### Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation

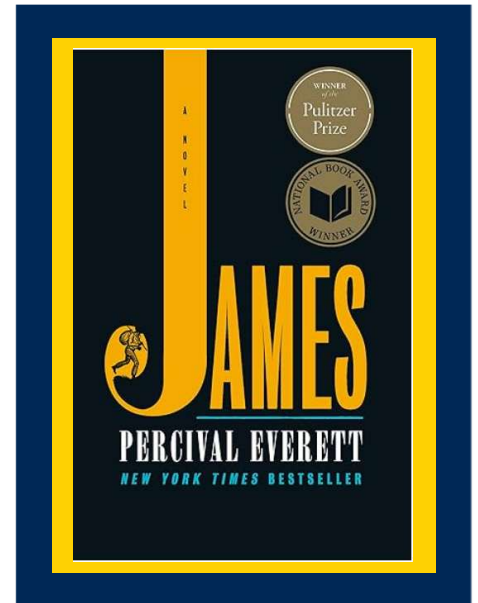
10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Grace Room

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Monday Evening Book Club

The Monday Evening Book Club took a break in December but resumes on Monday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. The Book Club will be a combination of meeting in person at Nancy Hom's house AND by Zoom.

Do you remember reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain as a younger person and wondering what enslaved Jim, a main character in Twain's story, was experiencing on the adventure? No, me either! But, Percival Everett did just that. Everett wrote a best-selling novel featuring the adventures of Jim, or James as Jim liked to be called. It is a roller-coaster of a read. Laugh-out-loud funny and poignant by turns, this is a page turner! *James* is a 2025 Pulitzer Prize winner, a finalist for The Booker Prize, a National Book Award Winner, a New York Times 10 Best Books of 2024, and our January choice. It will be available as a Book Club in a Box selection in early January.



Coming up in February is *What is a Christian Anyway* by Glenn Packiam. March takes us on holiday with the *Ghosts of Waikiki* by Jennifer Morita, and April lands us in our own backyards with Amy Tan's *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*.

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](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!

## Give Life Groups a Try: Three-Week "Taster" Is Coming in January

**Dates:** Sundays, January 11, 18, 25, 10:15 a.m., Room 2

**Facilitator:** Pastor Jeff Chapman

Many of us here at Faith have found great joy through participating in Life Groups. These are small groups that meet weekly (a few meet every other week) to study Scripture, reflect on the sermons, pray, fellowship, share a meal, and sometimes serve together. At their heart, Life Groups are an opportunity to "do" life together, hence the name.

Here is a chance for you to give Life Groups a try before making a long-term commitment. On Sundays, January 11, 18 and 25, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. in Room 2, we will host a Life Group "Taster." You'll have the chance to experience what has kept so many people coming back week after week, and even year after year, to their Life Groups. At the end of these three weeks, you'll have the option to join an ongoing Life Group or to be a part of starting a new one. Interested? Email Pastor Jeff Chapman to save your spot at ([jchapman@faithpresby.org](mailto:jchapman@faithpresby.org)).





# ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## Slowing Down... ...To Catch Up with Jesus

**Dates:** January 7 through February 11 on Zoom

**Facilitator:** Alice Parente

Jesus continually asks us, "What do you want me to do for you?" How often do you answer... "Slow me down, Lord!" More and more, it seems people are actually *incapable* of slowing down ---both themselves as well as their anxious, frantic lives. Yet, Jesus modeled balanced living for us. He invites us to join Him in that lifestyle.

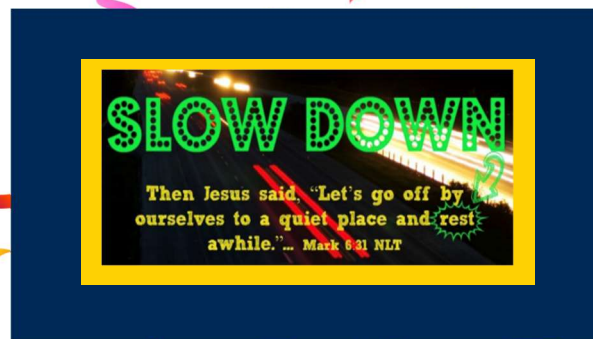
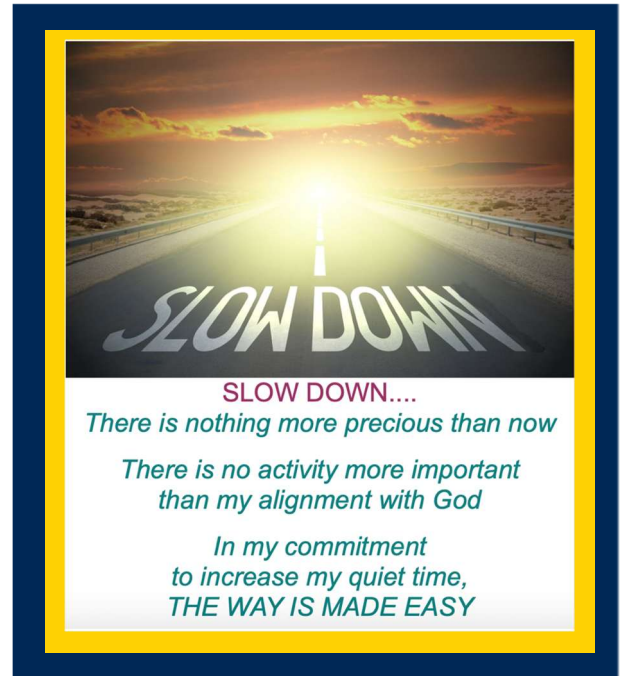
Dallas Willard said, "If I had only one word to describe Jesus it would be *relaxed*." In Matthew 11: 28, Jesus tells us, "Come to me. Keep company with me, and you'll learn to live lightly and freely." (MSG)

Following our somewhat frantically busy and demanding Christmas season---and thinking of Pastor Jeff's recent sermon series---perhaps we need to rest before we "go." So we can be a calm and loving presence, as we share Jesus with others.

This six-week class will be an adventure in exploring the concept of "hurry sickness," and what it means to become like our unhurried savior. We will seek to declare, "I want what *He* has!" And then go after it. Our vision will be to encounter Jesus not as frantically busy or demanding, but as present, attentive, and deeply kind.

There is no assigned book for this class. We will be using articles, podcasts, and videos created by spiritual formation giants who bring hope and healing to our addiction to hurry and busyness.

If you are interested in joining or have questions, please let Alice Parente know at [vsas77@earthlink.net](mailto:vsas77@earthlink.net).



# ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## **"Decently and In Order"** **A Theological Exploration of the PCUSA's Constitution**

**Dates:** January 11, 18, 25  
10:15 a.m., Grace Room

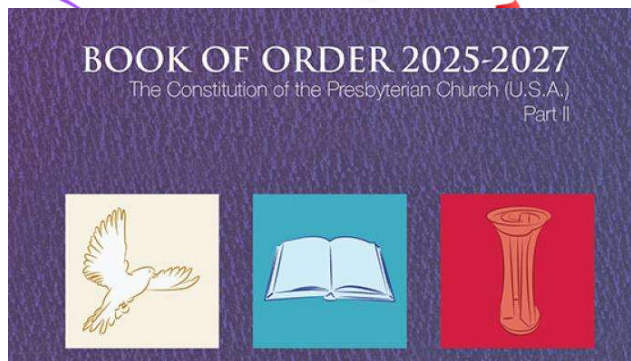
**Facilitator:** Laura Anderson

Have you ever wondered why the first words spoken in worship are not "Good morning" but "The Lord be with you"? Or wondered why we recite creeds and confessions in worship? (And exactly what *are* creeds and confessions, anyway?) What do Presbyterians mean when we say that we are "Reformed and always reforming"? And why, oh why, do Presbyterians care so much about doing everything "decently and in order"?



The answers to these and so many other questions can be found, at least in part, in our denomination's two-volume constitution, better known as the **Book of Confessions** and the **Book of Order**. And while you may be thinking that, surely, church constitutional documents must be dull as dirt, they are not! In fact, these two books don't just help us to understand who we are as Presbyterians; they can help us anchor our life as Christians and as a congregation more deeply in the person and the mission of our Triune God. So let's explore these volumes together! Join us for this three-week introduction to our Presbyterian constitution. We won't get bogged down in the details but will aim for a bird's-eye view that helps us focus on the breadth and beauty of the theology that undergirds these living documents.

For our first class on January 11, it will be helpful for participants to read in advance the first chapter (7 pages) of the **Book of Order** on **"The Mission of the Church."** You'll find hard copies of the chapter on the top shelf of the rack to the immediate right of Laura's office door. Or, use the online link that will be sent in Monday's **"This Week @ Faith"** email.



# Meet Faith's Newest Members!

Please join us in welcoming three new members of Faith Presbyterian Church and one newly baptized young adult! At the December 8<sup>th</sup> Session meeting, Gabriella Sweeting was approved to receive the sacrament of baptism; she was baptized in worship on December 21. In addition, Faith's Session voted to receive into membership Barbara Johnson, Tanis Toland and Michele Yarbrough. These new members will be presented to the congregation in worship on Sunday, January 11. Please welcome them warmly!

To help you get to know these women a little better, here is some of the biographical information that each of our three new members shared with us:

**Barbara Johnson** hails from California, having lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada County, Roseville and Sacramento. She is a retired registered nurse. Some of Barb's pastimes include walking, discovering new parks, and visiting with family and friends.

Barb was first introduced to Faith when she transferred from one Bible Study Fellowship meeting venue to the women's class that meets here at Faith on Tuesday mornings. As she settled into her new life in this area, she began to watch Faith's worship services online. Eventually she began to attend in person and jumped into life here at Faith with both feet. Barb continues to be so grateful for her Faith family!

**Tanis Toland** ("Tanis" rhymes with "Janice") is a California native who has lived in many areas of the state, including Challenge, Bakersfield, Concord, Arcata, Berkeley and Sacramento. Tanis is soon to retire after 35 years of working as an ecologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She is excited to see what comes next! At the very least, she will have more time to enjoy her pastimes. She loves to garden, especially caring for her camellias. She participates in the Sacramento Camellia Society, as well as the Sacramento Weavers and Spinners Guild – spinning and weaving are among her leisure activities. She also enjoys reading and learning new things.

Says Tanis, "I have very much enjoyed meeting the wonderful people of the Faith community and look forward to getting to know more of you as we worship and serve together."

Though **Michele Yarbrough** was born and raised in California, making her home in Concord, El Dorado Hills and now the Pocket, she did live in Germany for a year during the early 1970s, when her husband, Tom, was serving in the U.S. Army. Michele worked for 35 years in the eyecare industry and retired from Kaiser in 2014. These days, she is the fulltime caregiver for Tom as he faces health issues. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, sewing, canning, bike riding, hiking with friends, reading, and watching classic movies.

Michele and Tom moved to Sacramento in 2018 and started looking for a church home. They attended a few different congregations, but something always felt lacking. Then one Sunday, they walked into Faith and knew they were home. Michele and Tom continue to be grateful for the welcome they have felt here at Faith from Day One.



*Pictured left to right: new members Michele Yarbrough, Tanis Toland and Barbara Johnson; and the newly baptized Gabriella Sweeting*

# MONTHLY FOCUS REPORT: PROPERTY

**Elder: John Brophy**

**Report Date: December 2025**

Our property team is responsible for everything inside, outside and around the Faith campus.

We maintain and repair the entire facility inside and out, including the roof, air conditioning units, parking lot, outdoor lighting, plumbing, and campus grounds.

In the past year, we re-surfaced the parking lot, repaired the roof above Link Hall, upgraded the leased antennas above the sanctuary, and replaced the roof over the narthex and sanctuary. We also assisted the Narthex Team in the remodel of the narthex.

At our recent meeting, most of the Property Team members walked the grounds to identify the locations of the water main shutoff valves and the sprinkler systems and their shutoff valves. We will leave a copy of the Sprinkler Irrigation and Utility System Manual in the main office.

We are currently exploring updates to our waterflow alarm panel because technology is changing and our current alarm panel is antiquated.

We are also obtaining bids to clean up the black areas on the ceiling panels of Link Hall, which have been determined not to be mold. Once we complete this project, we will retest in 6 months to confirm that there is no mold.

In the new year, we will obtain bids to replace the carpet in Classroom 2, the Sunday School rooms, and the office of the Director of Family Ministry.

This year we have added four new members to the property team: Jay Gilbert, Sue Kim, Randy Valenzano and Sylvia Warner. I am grateful for the extensive knowledge, expertise and skill that each member of the committee – newcomer and “long-timer” alike – shares with the congregation through their participation on the Property Team.







## Presbyterian Women: January Fellowship

Wednesday, January 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Link Hall.

Check-in 11:15 a.m.; meeting starts promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest speaker will be Michael Marks – ‘Your Produce Man’

Michael Marks has been in the produce industry for half a century. Starting in a mom-and-pop grocery store, he worked in produce distribution, and became the marketing director for one of the nation's largest produce distributors. Michael was also the produce ambassador and radio spokesperson for one of the largest and most respected family-owned grocery store chains in California. He has been ‘Your Produce Man’ on television for 36 years, preaching the gospel of fruits and vegetables in his news reports, and now in a monthly 30-minute program, ***What's in Season*** with Michael Marks.

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 [trvkath@comcast.net](mailto:trvkath@comcast.net) for more information.

## ALSO IN JANUARY...

### Annual Congregational Celebration Sunday, January 25, at 12:15 p.m.

We hope you will plan to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting and Celebration in **Link Hall on Sunday, January 25, immediately following the 11:00 service.** We will share lunch together, look back in celebration on what the Lord has done in our midst this past year, elect elders and deacons, and pause to remember those brothers and sisters who have passed away in 2025.

Faith's Fellowship Team will be providing everything for a delicious luncheon. To help them with their planning, you are asked to RSVP with the number in your party. You'll find a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings; you may also email Laura and let her know how many will be attending ([landerson@faithpresby.org](mailto:landerson@faithpresby.org)).

Everyone is invited to attend, and members of Faith should make every effort to be present as we will be voting on elders and deacons. As a reminder, those who are not yet members of Faith are welcome to participate in all ways at the meeting with the exception of voting.

### Per Capita 2026

The 2026 per capita apportionment is \$33.48 per member. As a reminder, this is the amount that Faith pays per member as a means of contributing towards the shared ecclesiastical and administrative costs of our denomination. If you are a member and able to do so, please consider covering your share of the apportionment. You will find a per capita envelope in your pledge box. If you are not a member of Faith, this apportionment does not apply. If you are a member but unable to pay the apportionment, the church will, of course, cover your portion. If you have any questions about the per capita, please email Pledge Secretary Jennifer Anders at [jfsmith20@comcast.net](mailto:jfsmith20@comcast.net) or call the office at 916-428-3439. Thank you!





## Session 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 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 every month at 7:00 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!

- **Welcoming New Members** – At our December meeting we welcomed in three new members: Barbara Johnson, Michele Yarbrough, and Tanis Toland. They will each be presented in worship in January. We also approved and celebrated the upcoming baptism of Gabriella Sweeting. You can read more about them and see their pictures on Page 5!
- **Position Descriptions Update** – Our Personnel Team, led by Elder Stan Keasling, is always working to keep our staff position description up to date. At our November meeting we updated our Office Manager and Director of Family Ministry position descriptions.
- **Sanejo Leonard Received Under Care** – Sanejo is an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God denomination, and she is seeking to transfer her ordination to the PCUSA (our denomination). At the recommendation of our Presbytery, she was encouraged to connect with the life and ministry of a local PCUSA church as she learns as much as she can about our tradition. She has chosen to connect with us here at Faith. Our elders, after hearing her testimony, pledged to support her in this transition however we can.
- **Communications Coordinator** – Session approved the creation of a part-time staff position to oversee communications. We will begin posting this job in January and hope to have somebody fill the position shortly after. If you are interested in seeing a position description, please contact Personnel Elder Stan Keasling.
- **Nominating Committee** – This committee, chaired by elder Lucy DaCastello, continues its work as it seeks the Lord's leading on who will be called to serve in this next season as elders and deacons here at Faith.
- **2026 Operating Budget** – At its December meeting, Session approved the 2026 budget, which will be presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25, 2026.