

February 2026

PresbyNews



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Happy Valentine's Day from Faith!

This month's Presby News does include a Parents' Night out for Valentine's Day, so you will want to check out page 5 to see the fun things we have in store for the kids that night! That's just scratching the surface of the opportunities for worship, fellowship, mission and more included in this edition. You'll want to come to our Ash Wednesday dinner (see page 2), and mark your calendar for the upcoming RSVP concert described on page 7, where you can also learn about life-saving defibrillator training being offered here at the church. To top it off, perhaps you would like to join in a mission trip to Kenya (see page 8). Wow – how are we going to fit all this into the shortest month of the year??

Welcome and Events at Faith



Page 2: February 18, Ash Wednesday Dinner
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Adult Christian Formation



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Page 3: Slowing Down...To Catch up with Jesus

Worship and Praise



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

Give – Resources, Time and Talents



Page 8: March 14, SSIP Annual Fundraiser
Page 8: Mission Trip to Kenya

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

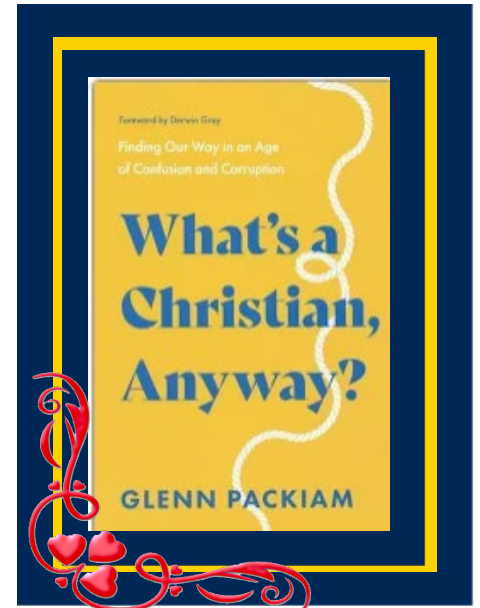
10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Grace Room

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Evening Book Club

It's a party!! On February 23rd we will celebrate the 1,700-year anniversary of the Nicene Creed by discussing *What's A Christian, Anyway? Finding Our Way in an Age of Confusion and Corruption* by Glenn Packiam. Pastor of Rockharbor Church in Costa Mesa, Dr. Packiam believes that the Nicene Creed is bedrock for the understanding of what a Christian is, and a springboard to living out our faith in an age of confusion and corruption. Although dealing with deep theology, this book is readable and understandable for everyone. Using it for a daily devotional during the month of February would be a great way to prepare for the meeting!

The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month. This month's meeting will be Monday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. The Book Club will meet in-person at Nancy Hom's and it will also be available on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the discussion, or would like to carpool to Nancy's house, 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!



In March the Book Club will host the author of our selection, *Ghosts of Waikiki*. Sacramento resident Jennifer Morita will join us to discuss the writing process and answer our questions about the book. What a wonderful opportunity!

Amy Tan's bestseller, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, is the April choice. A book with no plot but many endearing and interesting observations by Ms. Tan from when she took up birdwatching during Covid. Some of what birds do will surprise you, and Amy Tan's illustrations are delightful!.

Join us for Ash Wednesday Dinner!

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18. As is our tradition, we will gather for dinner that evening at 5:30 in Link Hall, after which we will worship at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our Fellowship Team is planning a delicious meal for us. To help them with their preparations, would you be so kind as to RSVP if you are planning to attend? You may sign up in the Welcome Center next time you are at the church, or email Laura with the number of people in your party (landerson@faithpresby.org). We hope you will be able to join us for this meaningful time of fellowship and worship as we enter into the Lenten season.



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Sunday School in February: The Word, Out Loud

Dates: February 8, 15, 22

Time: 10:15 a.m., Grace Room

Facilitator: Kathy Stern

Reading the Bible together turns a personal practice into a shared adventure that points our hearts toward God. As we gather around the same stories, questions spark laughter, wisdom flows freely, and new insights rise from every voice. When Scripture is shared aloud, we don't just learn—we worship, honoring God by listening together and living out His Word in community. Warm, welcoming, and surprisingly fun, this practice offers a beautiful way to grow in faith while glorifying God side by side.

Join us (and bring your Bible!) in February as we take part in the historic practice of reading The Word, Out Loud—together!

Slowing Down...To Catch Up with Jesus

Dates: Wednesdays through February 11

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m., on Zoom

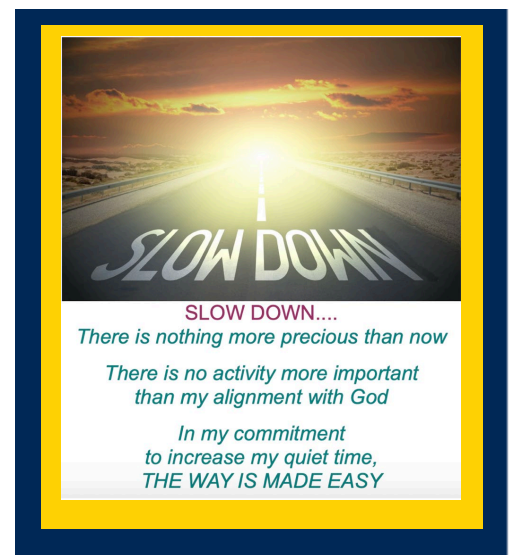
Facilitator: Alice Parente

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 need the Zoom link, please contact Alice Parente at vsas77@earthlink.net.



Books Added to the Library in 2025!

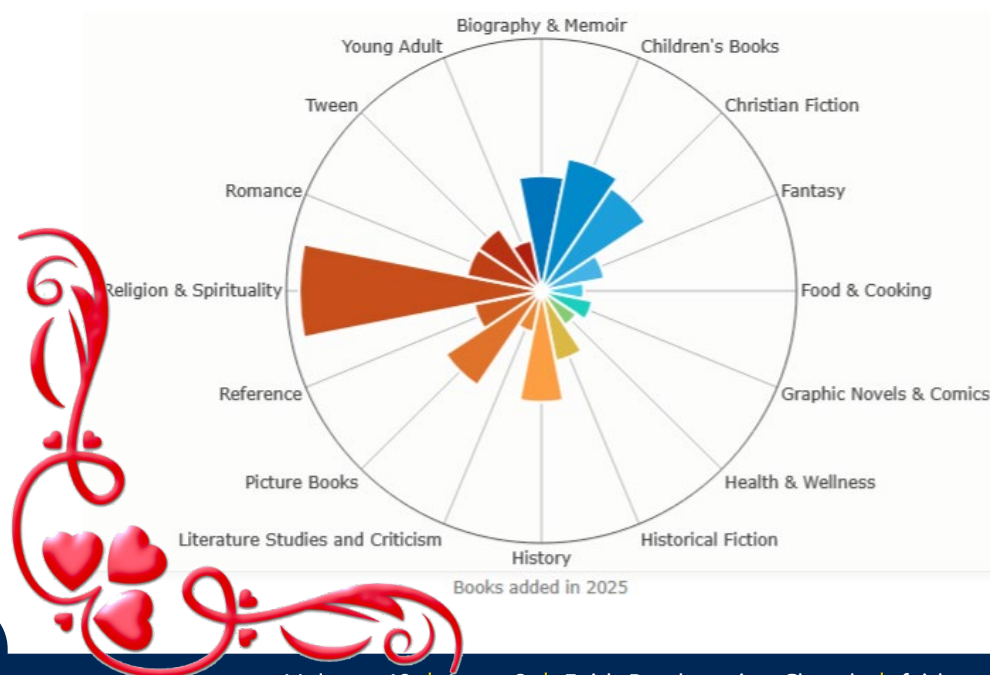
Faith's librarians, Betty and Anita Falltrick, were busy in 2025, adding 454 new titles to the collection and working with the Narthex Committee to make the books even more accessible to us. If you have not yet had a chance, take a look at the new bookcase in the narthex and borrow a book to take home for a month. If you do not see a title you would like, head over to the Fireside Room and check out the rest of the library's collection.

Of the books added, the earliest publication date was *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* by Jeremiah Burroughs (1648) and the latest was *After Baby Comes: Physical, Spiritual, and Emotional Recovery for Postpartum Moms* by Rachel Taylor (2025).

These are a few of the titles:



Covering 16 topics or genres:



Please Don't Fall for Scams!

A couple of times every year, we hear from folks in the congregation, letting us know that they have received an email or text purportedly from Pastor Jeff and usually asking—directly or eventually—for some type of financial help. These are always scams. Please delete them and report them as a scam if you can. Do not respond to them, and **never** click on any link in them.

If you think the email *might* be legitimate, still do not respond to that email. Instead, start a new email to Jeff at his church email address and ask him to verify that he contacted you. Or, call the church directly. Do the same for any “fishy” email that purports to be from a staff member. Faith’s staff members will not contact individual members of the congregation by email, by text, or by any other means with requests for money or gift cards; they will never put this burden on you. Suspicious email or text? Ignore it or delete it!

From time to time, we as a congregation have the opportunity to contribute with our finances or with gift cards to special mission offerings, such as after the Paradise fire or for Family Promise. When such an appeal goes out, it will be made publicly in worship, printed in the bulletin, and sent out to the entire church on our email distribution list. (Our “**This Week @ Faith**” and “**House to House**” emails also come via this distribution list.) Any request that comes via a channel other than these should be viewed with suspicion.

In you ever have concerns about the validity of a communication that purports to be from the church, please call the office. We’ll be glad to help you figure out if it is legitimate or not.

Now, this one may seem too good to be true – But it's for real!



Parent's Valentine's Night Out!



♥ When: Saturday, February 14th
From 5:00 PM- 7:00PM

♥ Where: Link Hall

Enjoy a peaceful evening together while your children share dinner, play games, and finish the night with crafts or a showing of Paddington 2.

PLEASE REGISTER HERE 

(AGES 3+ and potty trained please)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION

SSIP's Annual Fundraiser Is March 14

"Full Plates, Full Hearts" is the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet's annual fundraiser, and it is coming up on Saturday, March 14, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Anthony Church, 660 Florin Road. You are invited to come and enjoy "*An Evening in Tuscany*," which will feature delicious Italian food provided by Maggie's Table and delightful entertainment by "*Music by Dennis*." The evening will be capped with a live auction, which is sure to be a lot of fun.

Tickets are \$75 through February 14 and \$85 thereafter. For more information or to purchase tickets, scan the QR code.

SSIP is one of Faith's longest-enduring mission partnerships. The food closet serves clients weekdays from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., and in this short time, they serve hundreds of our food-insecure neighbors every day. If you are able, we hope you will join them for this fundraising event, proceeds from which support their vital mission and ministry in South Sacramento.



Interested in Going to Kenya with Jeff, Esther and Ron?

Every spring Esther and Jeff Chapman serve as part of the team that leads the Angaza Torchbearers Bible School in Kenya, one of our global mission partners. Seventy students and staff come from around the world for this month-long experience. This year Ron Beams is already booked to join us at the school for the first portion. Perhaps you are interested in coming along with us for a week or two? If so, please reach out to Pastor Jeff to find out more (jchapman@faithpresby.org). To learn more about Angaza, visit <https://torchbearers-albania.org/angaza/>. Then scroll down to watch this video!



RSVP Concert at Faith!

RSVP (Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace) is a Sacramento-based vocal ensemble founded in 2000. They will be giving another free charity concert at Faith on Friday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. The charity being supported by this concert is "Bigger Than Us Arts," an organization providing arts education that is inclusive, diverse and transformative. To learn more, visit their website: <https://www.btuarts.org/>



AED Training on February 22

Late last year, Faith acquired two AEDs -- **A**utomated **E**xternal **D**efibrillators. One is located in the Welcome Center, and the other is in the Link Hall foyer. These lifesaving devices are easy to use with a bit of training. Because we would like to equip as many people as possible with the skills to use these devices and save a life, we want to offer a training event that is open to everyone.

Faith's Worship Team is offering a two-hour, video-based training session on **Sunday, February 22, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Grace Room**. You are encouraged to attend and learn how to save a life with the AEDs. Invite members of your ministry team or Life Group to come with you! If interested in attending, your RSVP to Paul Kinney (pk@radiofilms.com) is requested.

You Could Save a Life!



Would You Like to Find a Way to Grow More Deeply in Your Faith?

Christians are formed, not born.

~Tertullian

Life Together

What is Life Together? Life Together is a five-week interactive course geared toward bringing together people who want to grow with one another to be formed more fully as devoted followers of Jesus Christ here in this community of Faith. The course will include a balance of group gatherings and individual spiritual practices. The application to everyday life will be intensely practical. We explore both key doctrines and disciplines of the Christian faith, both of which are essential for spiritual growth.

Is this course for you? Ask yourself the following questions:

- Have you found yourself recently interested in Jesus and how you can have a personal and vibrant relationship with him as Savior and Lord?
- Are you tired of feeling “stuck” or “stalled” in your Christian faith?
- Are you finding it difficult, if not impossible, to become the sort of person you sense God made you to become?
- Are you new (or maybe not so new) to this congregation and eager to connect with others in this faith community at a deeper level?
- Are you interested in considering the commitment of membership here at Faith?

When is this course offered? Life Together will be offered on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the following dates: **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**. A celebration dinner will be held at the end (date TBD). Though participants are encouraged to be present for every session, teachings can be recorded when needed. Sign-ups are taken well in advance. If you are interested in signing up or learning more, contact Pastor Jeff at (916) 428-3439, ext. 101, or jchapman@faithpresby.org.



MONTHLY FOCUS REPORT: FINANCE

Elder: Karen Chan

Report Date: January 2025

The Finance Committee is entrusted with stewarding the financial gifts offered by the congregation to support the ministry and mission of Faith Presbyterian Church.

Our team members carry out a wide range of financial responsibilities, including counting the weekly offering, issuing checks, reconciling bank accounts, and preparing financial reports.

We ensure that all gifts are recorded accurately and allocated to their designated accounts. These funds are then directed to their intended purposes, including paying bills, supporting mission partners, and sustaining the work of the church. We also maintain records of Giving Pledges and provide annual Giving Statements to all pledgers and contributors.

Each year, we prepare the proposed budget with input from every Ministry Team. After Session approves the budget, we present it to the congregation at the annual meeting, along with an update on the current financial status of Faith Presbyterian Church. Session reviews the budget in June to see if any adjustments are needed.

This year, Session implemented a policy to review annually our operating budget reserve account to make sure these funds are appropriately held. The Finance Team also oversees and enhances our church's database systems to support electronic communication with the congregation, including online giving, event registration, and fundraising efforts.

Most importantly, we recognize that we serve as conduits of God's gifts—receiving them from Him, through our church community, and directing them outward to share His Good News with the world.



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 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 have any questions about the per capita, please contact Pledge Secretary Jennifer Anders at jfsmith20@comcast.net.



Presbyterian Women: February Fellowship

Wednesday, February 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Link Hall

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

Kathy Kobasic from Kobasic's Candy will be our guest speaker. Since 2003, Kobasic's has been specializing in handcrafted chocolates and candies, including a variety of allergy-friendly options such as dairy-free, gluten-free, and nut-free treats. In addition to their confections, they also have a large selection of small gifts including Funko Pops, Beanie Babies & figurines. There will be samples!

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. Your gently used or new Christmas decorations are still welcome for the "Holiday Corner" on the bazaar table!

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.

With Thanks from Marvette Swayzer

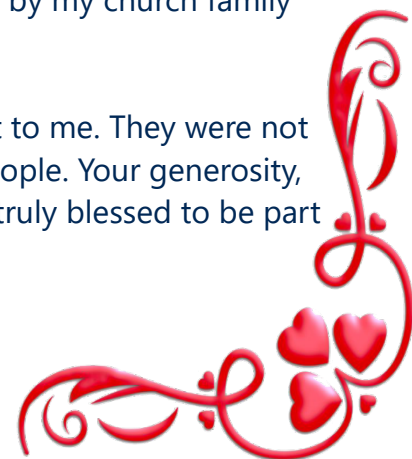
Dear Members of Faith Presbyterian Church,

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for the kindness, care, and prayers you have shown me. Your phone calls, visits, and thoughtful check-ins have meant more to me than I can fully put into words. Knowing that I am remembered and prayed for by my church family has brought me great comfort and reassurance during this time.

I am especially thankful for the meals that were lovingly prepared and brought to me. They were not only a practical help, but also a reminder of God's love working through his people. Your generosity, compassion, and faith have lifted my spirits and strengthened my heart. I feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring church community, and I thank God for each of you.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,

Marvette & Family



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 for 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!

- Lord's Supper Celebrations Approved – It is our elders who approve all occasions when we celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Our elders approved those occasions for 2026, including our regular rhythm of celebrating the Lord's Supper each first Sunday of the month.
- Longterm Visioning – Our elders spent significant time this month continuing work which was begun at our off-site retreat in November. Our goal is to discern how the Lord may be calling us as a congregation to move out beyond our "walls" to bear witness to Christ in our city and beyond, especially with those who do not yet know Christ. Lots of ideas are being kicked around. Prayer is central.
- Ron Beams – The elders received word that Ron Beams was open to coming back into his role as Director of Congregational Care. After some discussion of this transition, the motion was enthusiastically affirmed. All such staffing decisions come through the Personnel Committee, led by Elder Stan Keasling.
- Focus Report – Elder Karen Chan gave a wonderful overview of the Finance Ministry, which she oversees.

