

May - June 2026

# PresbyNews



Volume 50 | Issue 5-6 | Faith Presbyterian Church | [faithpresby.org](http://faithpresby.org)

## Summer Kicks Off at Faith

There's a lot to share in this edition of the Presby News! Please welcome our newest members, who are introduced on Page 4. And, we are excited that students from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington will be our summer fellows – their bios are found on Page 5. We have a new Adult Christian Formation class in June where you will learn about *Homiletics* (see Page 3), and on Page 2 you'll get an update on the Book Club. And, Pages 9 & 10 bring us the return of Presby Pets! You may not remember this newsletter segment as it's been quite a while since it last ran, but it's back, and you won't want to miss it!

### Welcome and Events at Faith



Page 2: June 22, Last Book Club Meeting of the Year  
Page 6: Thank You from Lillian

### Adult Christian Formation



Page 3: A Simple Approach to Homeletics

### Worship and Praise



Page 5: Meet our 2026 Summer Fellows  
Come join us for worship! See our regular schedule, posted at right.

### Give – Resources, Time and Talents



Pages 9 and 10: Presby Pets is Here Again!

## 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

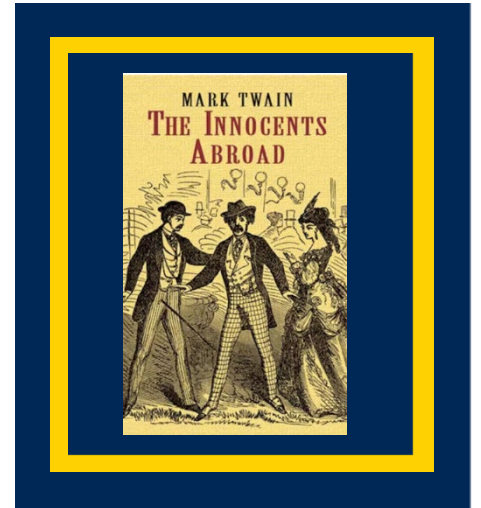
### Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Monday Evening Book Club

The arrival of summer often brings out the travel bug in us. The Book Club is offering the 19th century equivalent of Rick Steves with the choice of *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain. This book, describes Twain's journey with companions from New York to Europe to Jerusalem. It was his best-selling book. Twain convinced a newspaper to pay for his journey which began in June 1867. His observations and sense of humor delighted, surprised, and, at times, offended his readers. Twain offered this defense of his book: "I offer no apologies for any departures from the usual style of travel-writing that may be charged against me—for I think I have seen with impartial eyes, and I am sure I have written at least honestly, whether wisely or not." Read, discuss and see if you agree!



The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Monday evening of the month, June 22rd. 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!

In June and July the Book Club pauses for two important reasons. The first is so that members can take time to read whatever they choose! The very important second reason is to choose next year's book list. Stay tuned in August to view the upcoming books and consider joining the book club.

Also consider browsing the curated books located in the Narthex. You will find a wonderful selection of books: fiction, non-fiction, devotional, memoirs, children's and teens. You will find some real gems on the shelves!

Have you read a book that would be great to discuss with friends? Beginning in May the Book Club begins taking suggestions for next year's books and hoping for a wide variety to choose from!



## A Simple Approach to Homiletics: Assembling the Content of a Bible Passage to Facilitate Understanding

**Dates:** June 14, 21, 28

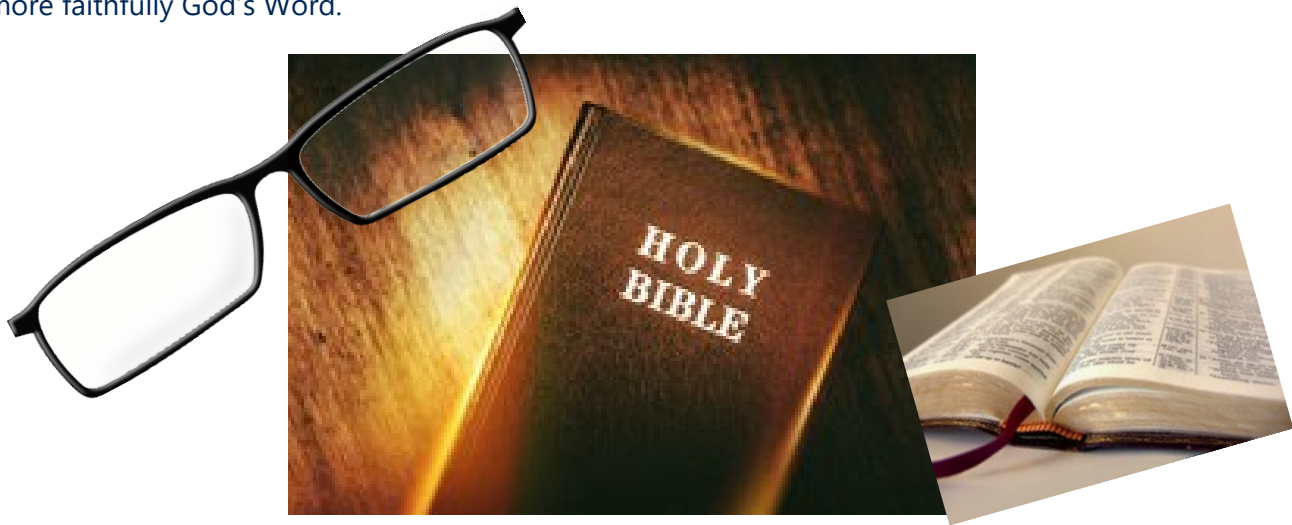
**Time:** 10:15 a.m., Grace Room

**Facilitator:** Larry Larsen

The Scriptures are recorded in languages spoken today by few people. Therefore, sermons and homilies serve to facilitate understanding. Very briefly, sermons tend to be longer and explore more deeply, while homilies tend to be shorter and explore more simply.

The simple approach to homiletics that we will explore in this class has been used for decades by leaders in Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). Audrey Wetherell Johnson, the founder of BSF, learned this approach, pioneered by Hudson Taylor, while serving with the China Inland Mission.

We will practice homiletics using John 6:1-21, in three parts. Please join us as we learn together how to study more faithfully God's Word.



### *Just in case you were wondering...*

**Homiletics** is the art and science of preparing and delivering sermons or religious discourses. It functions both as a method for analyzing and interpreting sacred texts, and as a discipline for effectively communicating those lessons to an audience.

#### **Key Components**

**Etymology:** Derived from the Greek word *homilia*, meaning "conversation" or "communal discussion".

- **An Art & A Science:** It is a science because it follows logical principles of exegesis (interpreting texts) and structured outlining. It is an art because it requires creativity, delivery skills, and emotional connection with the listeners.
- **Practical Theology:** It falls under the branch of theology dedicated to practical, lived ministry

## Meet Faith's Newest Members!

Please join us in welcoming Laurie Mizell and Marcie Hettenbach as members of Faith Presbyterian Church!

**Laurie Mixell** is a California native who has lived in Woodland (20 years) and Sacramento (40+ years) her whole life. Though now retired, Laurie worked in accounting for the State of California for 36 years. These days, she enjoys doing crafts, including crochet, building things, and reading.

Laurie first visited Faith after her father moved into The Meadows. She wanted to be near him and so moved to the area. Having spent time in another church in our presbytery, Laurie had heard of Faith. When the time came for her to meet people and renew her faith journey, she decided to give Faith a try. Writes Laurie, "I knew from the first time [I visited] that this was my new church home." As she takes the step of formal membership, Laurie is looking forward to seeing how the Lord will help her grow spiritually and personally through her participation in the life of this congregation.



**Marcie Hettenbach** is a native of Sacramento. While she has had the opportunity to travel, she always comes back to the valley with a sense that there truly is no place like home. Although currently retired, Marcie remains active in volunteer work, spending the bulk of her volunteer hours at SSIP. She also enjoys taking part in Faith's monthly Reaching Out Resource Fair at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Says Marcie, "Being in community is precious to me!"

Marcie shares that she was not raised in the church, but some trauma in her life led her to seek the Lord. "Faithful as He always is," she writes, "He came running and saved me." Now every day feels like a brand-new opportunity to learn as she walks with Jesus on her journey of faith.

As she settles in to her new church home here at Faith, Marcie says that she is looking forward to getting to know each and every person here. So, be sure to help her in this endeavor by introducing yourself to her and welcoming her in to our church family!



# AND....MEET OUR 2026 SUMMER FELLOWS!

## Abraham Santiago & Athaliah Ioane

Session has once again invited two college students from Whitworth University in Spokane to come to be a part of our staff this summer. The Summer Fellowship Program at Whitworth prayerfully pairs Whitworth students to ministry partners within the Office of Church Engagement's global network (Faith is a part of that network!). We have fond memories of all the fellows who have served with us over the years, including Sophie last summer. Abraham and Ata will be with us for 10 weeks this summer and have an opportunity to immerse themselves in the ministry of Faith as a way to explore how God may calling them to serve in the church and in the world. They will each be serving in our youth ministry, children's ministry, worship ministry, mission ministry, pastoral care ministry, and staying with families in our congregation. We look forward to having them both with us. Please pray for them each as they prepare for this summer. And here's a bit about each of them in their own words...



Hello, my name is **Abraham Santiago** and I am a junior at Whitworth University. I am studying secondary education and accounting and hope to become a high school business teacher and also feel like the Lord has put a calling in my life to become a pastor. I am the second oldest of seven and come from a Mexican immigrant family. I enjoy hanging out with friends, cooking, music, tennis, superheroes, and late night drives. I hope to serve you all, learn and have fun with y'all!

This is my second summer with Faith Presbyterian, and I'm looking forward to being back with you!

My name is Athaliah, but most people call me **Ata**. I am deeply motivated by my faith in Christ and grounded by family and community. I am interested in youth development and intergenerational ministry, and opportunities to work with diverse populations in marginalized communities. I bring a laidback but responsible approach to my work. Academically and vocationally, I am interested in law, governance, communications, and media. I hope to serve in ways that reflect Christ's love through presence, humility, and a commitment to walking alongside others with care and integrity.



# THANK YOU, FAITH COMMUNITY!

## **Dear Faith Presbyterian Church members,**

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It is amazing to me how quickly time passes by in the blink of an eye. It has been almost a year since I lost my husband, Art. As many of you know, I have had some health challenges since I lost Art that have prevented me from participating in many of our church functions, so you haven't seen a great deal of me in the past few months.



That being said, I am way behind in telling all of you how very much I have appreciated all of your support over the past few months. Many of you were there on the day of Art's memorial service to lend a hand and support me at a time when I needed it most. I very much appreciate everything all of you did to make a stressful situation easier to manage. So many of you came to the service, helped with the reception afterwards, sent cards, brought food and helped me in so many ways, I can't even count them all.

Please forgive my terrible tardiness in thanking all of you. You are all truly God's loving children and I am so blessed to be a part of this church family.

May God bless all of you and your families.

*Lillian Thurston*



# MONTHLY FOCUS REPORT: LAY MINISTRY

**Elder: Linda Olsen-Edgar**

**Report Date: April 2026**

The goal of Lay Ministry is to support Faith's current ministries, to encourage new ideas & actions within our congregation & above all to serve Christ by sharing our gifts & talents.

My team is: Kathy Ellis, Sherry Beams, Helen Frisch, and Renee Larsen. Marianne Jenkins & Kerrilee Blunt chose to volunteer in other ministries in December.

1. **"Bless the Ways We Serve"**. In 2025, we had 7 people in our congregation share their testimonies of seeing the Lord work in their careers & also shared how God has worked in relationships with their families & neighbors. Their testimony shows God at work in all aspects of their lives.
2. **Heart to Heart** continues to do God's work & is a blessing to so many. There are over 100 volunteers. The volunteers continue to share through the gifts they have received to serve others. This quote from **Peter 4:10** exemplifies this. **"Each of you should use whatever gift you have to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's Grace in its' various forms"**.
3. presented to the congregation. This year 5 new members were presented. We furnish corsages/boutonnieres. We plan a reception in the Fireside room after the service. They are introduced to their Deacon & can ask questions as needed. They are presented with a welcoming personal letter, a Christian book & a copy of Presbynews showing their profile.
4. Lay Ministry oversee the annual updating of the **"Pathways"** booklet. The last update was October 2025; this book is updated annually and is also available on the church website.
5. Lay Ministry oversees the **Ministry Faire** each October. The Faire is an opportunity for each ministry to showcase how they serve Faith and also meet the Elders/ministries. It is also an opportunity for people to get involved where they feel a calling within the church. Our next Faire will be on October 4, 2026.
6. Lay Ministry attends the **"Look @ Faith"** gathering each month.



# FOCUS REPORT: ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Elder: Kathy Stern**

**Report Date: May 2026**

This has been a rich and encouraging year for **Adult Christian Formation** at Faith. Our desire continues to be helping adults become more informed, formed, and transformed in their faith through Scripture, fellowship, prayer, and shared experiences together.

Throughout the year, many members participated in Sunday classes covering Old and New Testament books of the Bible, and topics such as *The Feasts of Israel*, a Theological Exploration of the PCUSA Constitution, and how brain science and ancient spiritual practices offer us ways to form healthier attachments with God, the people around us, and ourselves.

Midweek Zoom studies also continued to provide opportunities for connection and spiritual growth, with classes including *The Way of Jesus*, *Slowing Down to Catch Up with Jesus*, and *Holy Spirit: The Stranger Within Us*.

Our retreats were another highlight of the year. The Women's Retreats, Reflective Retreat, Fall Retreat, and Men & Boys' Retreat each provided meaningful times of worship, teaching, fellowship, and renewal.

Life Groups continue to be an important part of the ministry, providing places for friendship, care, prayer, and discipleship. We are especially thankful that three new Life Groups have been added since January.

One exciting addition this spring was the beginning of childcare during the Sunday school hour, making classes more accessible for young families. We are grateful to all who helped make this possible.

Looking ahead, we are prayerfully considering several goals for the coming years, including developing a long-term plan for Sunday classes, offering more classes geared toward younger adults and parents, creating an **Adult VBS** opportunity, and strengthening coordination with other ministries across the church.



We are deeply grateful for the many coordinators, teachers, leaders, and volunteers who helped make these classes and gatherings possible.

We thank God for His faithfulness and for the many ways He continues to grow and encourage His people through the Adult Christian Formation ministry.



## Donna's Feral Story

By Donna Touros

As many of you know, after repeated attempts to shoo away a young feral kitten in my yard, I gave up when I found her eating birdseed from my feeder just before Christmas almost 5 years ago 🐱. That's when I started leaving food out for her. A few days later a larger black cat 🐱 followed her, I assumed it was her mom and so fed them both. I was wrong 🙄! When the little one started looking a little too fat, I thought *uh-oh* 🤔 you guessed it! The idea of having a litter of cats for another 15 years was not a pleasant thought. 😞

I had just recently lost my two long-time indoor cats, and decided "no more pets, I'm going to travel now". That's when I started researching TNR, Trap-Neuter-Return! It was the "return" part that gave me pause. That's how it works! You trap them, get them spayed, neutered, and vaccinated...and then they're your responsibility!

Fast forward almost five years and I still have Baby-Mama and her five not-so-little kittens living in my space. Rajah, Simba, Tchalla, Sissy & Lucy (I ran out of Disney cat names) are a delight. They are very polite, well-mannered (none of them have ever hissed at me, scratched me, or attempted to bite) and they are still very feral! Only three allow me to pet them, on their terms. The other three (including Baby-Mama) come when called, but if I reach out to pet them they back away.



Rajah decided early on that she recognized the perks of both worlds. Her trade-off was to allow me to pet her and eventually pick her up. She quickly figured out the kitty door and now spends 50% of her time indoors. She has kitty beds in 3 rooms and her food dishes are in the kitchen. She follows me throughout the house and sleeps in her bed next to my bed. 🐱





**TChalla**

The whole family lives in my backyard and they have a kitty door into the garage, where they go to escape rain and where they eat and sleep every night. They know their names and come when called. They are still a close little family with their Baby-Mama. Tchalla is the only boy, and looks a lot like the daddy-cat, who left soon after the girls were spayed. 🐱

**Update:** I'm sad to report that Simba has recently gone missing. I'm praying she found better food and solitude in a loving home elsewhere.

**Note:** TNR cats have the pointy tip of their left ear clipped. If you see a cat with no collar and a clipped left ear it means they are feral, and being fed and cared for in the neighborhood.



**Simba**

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*Many thanks to Donna for bringing this fun and friendly news segment back, after I-don't-remember-how-many years!*

*If you have a pet story to share, please send to me at [suzan.hughes@synectics.net](mailto:suzan.hughes@synectics.net). Be sure to include photos!*

