



May 2026

PresbyNews



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Spring in Sacramento – Maybe?

Spring has been teasing us, but then, there is a saying about April showers, I believe...Whatever the weather, there's a lot to share in this edition of the Presby News! We will again welcome students from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington to be our summer fellows – their bios are found on Page 5. We have two Adult Christian Formation classes continuing in May (see Pages 3 and 4), and on Page 2 you'll get an update on the Book Club. And, Pages 7&8 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 4: May 27, Presby Women's Luncheon
Page 6: Thank You from Lillian

Adult Christian Formation



Page 3: Holy Spirit...The Stranger Within Us
Page 4: In Christ Alone – The Colossian Letter

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 8 and 9: 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

RISE Kids' Worship

Pre-K – Grade 6
9:00 a.m., Rooms 4 & 5

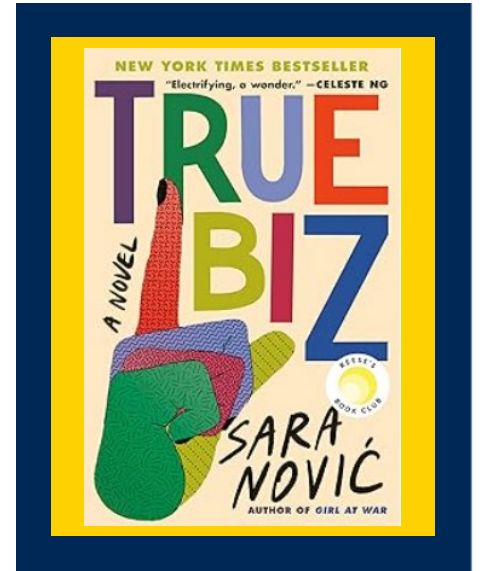
Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Evening Book Club

True biz? The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history finals, and have politicians, doctors, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf. *Tru Biz* by Sara Novic, who is herself deaf, is a story of sign language and lip-reading, disability and civil rights, isolation and injustice, first love and loss, and, above all, great persistence, daring, and joy. Absorbing and assured, idiosyncratic and relatable, this is an unforgettable journey into the Deaf Community and a universal celebration of human connection.



The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the third Monday evening, May 18th, because of Memorial Day. Zoom will not be available. If you are interested in joining the discussion, 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!

Making plans for your summer vacation? Be inspired by June's classic selection: *Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain.

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!



Holy Spirit...The Stranger Within Us

Dates: Continues through May 20 on Zoom

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Alice Parente



Most people today long to be rescued from the fear, pain, and hardship going on right now. As Christians in the midst of perceived helplessness and tempting hopelessness, we believe in a triune God who can rescue us and our world from our current situations. We yearn for a *felt* connection to that Love and Power far greater than ourselves.

According to Jesus, that Love and Power is reflected in the Holy Spirit.

In John 15 and 16, Jesus informs His disciples that after He leaves, He will send them an Advocate, the Spirit of truth. "He will speak only what he hears [from me and from the Father]. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you."

And Jesus was quite excited about this, because He knew it would be through the Holy Spirit that He would truly be able to dwell within us. Forever. The disciples testified throughout the Book of Acts to having authentic spiritual experiences that gave them courage, hope, and confidence in Father, Son, and Spirit.

However, nowadays, the confusion and unfamiliarity surrounding the Person of the Holy Spirit may lead many of us to either sideline the Spirit of God or misunderstand what the Spirit means for our spiritual lives. Yet, Jesus promised, and His followers throughout the centuries have born witness to, the power of the Spirit acting in their lives and their worlds. And now, we have this same transformative, profound, deep Spirit within and around us, guiding us towards increased love, hope, compassion, and inner peace.

This seven-week class is an opportunity to explore Jesus' invitation into an authentic, lived friendship with the Spirit, who is the very presence of Jesus Himself within and among us.

In *Holy Spirit: The Stranger Within Us*, we will become acquainted with the Spirit of God in Scripture...where the Holy Spirit appears throughout the entire Bible. We will explore how to close the gap between what Scripture reveals about the Holy Spirit and our personal, lived experience of the Spirit.

There is no assigned book for this class. We will be using articles, podcasts, and videos created by spiritual formation giants who bring insights and perspectives around the Holy Spirit.

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

Come and see what "Come, Holy Spirit" might mean for you.



In Christ Alone: The Colossian Letter

Dates: Continues May 17, 24, 31

Time: 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Grace Room

Facilitator: Rev. Rick Hull

It is a time of social chaos, spiritual confusion, and decaying moral values.

It is a time when an entire culture is struggling and good-hearted believers are seeking. Who has the power to assure us and fulfill us? Whose call do we follow? Where is there a dependable hope? What are we to do?

It is a time so very like our own. And to this ancient-yet-modern culture, the Apostle Paul pens a letter that speaks assurance, guidance and courage in every generation that has read it. These six practical, compelling segments take us to the very heart of New Testament faith – “In Christ Alone.”



Presbyterian Women: May Fellowship

Wednesday May 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Link Hall

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

Our speaker for May is our own Aaron MacMahon – Director of Operations for Selland Family Restaurants.

For over 30 years, the Selland Hospitality Group has been the Sacramento region’s premier farm-to-fork, family-owned restaurant group. With four highly acclaimed restaurant concepts and six locations, Selland Hospitality Group is owned and operated by the Selland Family. Selland’s family of restaurants includes the venerable institution The Kitchen Restaurant, downtown Sacramento hotspot Ella Dining Room & Bar, Sellands Café & Bar with three locations, and OBO’ Italian Table & Bar with two locations.

We will be serving pre-ordered box lunches (from Sellands). If you are interested in purchasing a box lunch, please contact Cathy Healow at: chealow@yahoo.com. Boxes may be purchased up to May 17th. We will have time to catch up with one another over lunch and to hear from our board members. We will have our usual raffle but will not have a bazaar table this month.

All Faith women are warmly invited to join us for this time of Christian friendship.
Drinks and dessert will be provided.

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

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 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,

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.



PRESBY PETS ARE HERE AGAIN!



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

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. Be sure to include photos!

