

October - November 2026

PresbyNews

Faith PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Happy Turkey Day, 2026!

Thanksgiving is here, bringing us a wonderful opportunity to count our blessings, share a little laughter, and enjoy the company of family and friends! As we gather around our tables, let's remember to give thanks not only for the good things in our lives, but also for the love, faith, and fellowship that bring us together. This issue of the Presby News has several opportunities for just that – there's 'Run to Feed the Hungry' (page 5); Presby Women invite you to their November luncheon (page 6), and we have Adult Education classes described on pages 3 and 4. We wish for everyone a joyful, blessed, and delicious Thanksgiving!

Welcome and Events at Faith

Page 7: November 5, Sing with the Christmas Choir!

Page 11: Kids' Club!

Adult Christian Formation

Page 3: A Life Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Page 4: A Study of Ruth

Worship and Praise

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

Give – Resources, Time and Talents

Page 6: Thanksgiving Day – Run to Feed the Hungry

Worship at Faith

Faith Presbyterian Church
625 Florin Road
Sacramento, CA 95831
916-428-3439

Pastor Jeff Chapman
Associate Pastor Brett Shoemaker

Sunday Worship Services
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Livestreaming at 9:00 a.m. at faithpresby.org

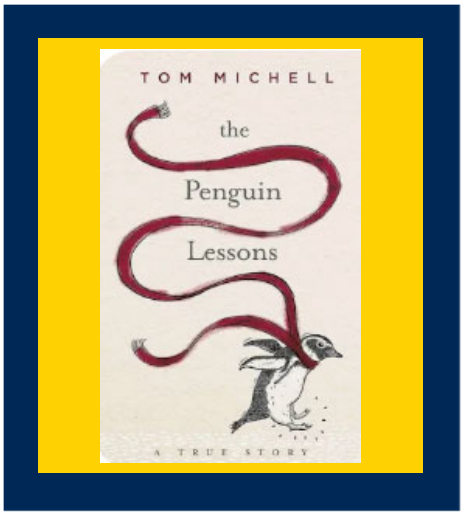
Rooted & Growing Programs
Pre-K – Grade 6
9:00 a.m., Rooms 4 & 5

Adult Sunday School
10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Grace Room

Next PresbyNews Deadline: November 20
Please send submissions to Suzie Hughes at suzan.hughes@synectics.net

Monday Evening Book Club

In ***The Penguin Lessons***, Tom Michell shares the true story of a penguin who bonds with him after Tom rescues him from an oil slick while on vacation in Uruguay. Michell is a 23-year-old new to teaching at a boys' school in Argentina. The antics of the penguin, whom Tom named Juan Salvador, are comical as he becomes the mascot and hero of the young schoolboys, while a civil war rages outside the safety of the school walls. This book is delightful and charming.



In December the Book Club takes a holiday. We resume in January with a very timely book, ***The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime and Dangerous Obsession*** by Michael Finkel. This award-winning book will be available using Book Club in a Box.

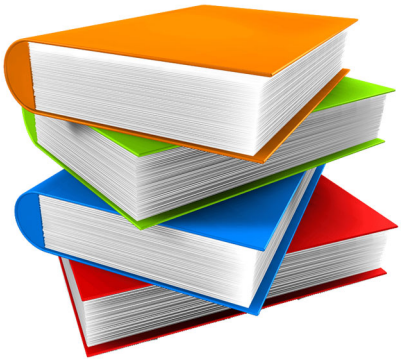
Need some Christmas gift ideas? Coming up this spring the Book Club will be reading ***Rebecca*** by Daphne duMaurier, ***The Lost and Found Bookshop*** by Susan Wiggs, and ***Whistler*** by Ann Patchett, along with other selections using Book Club in a Box.

The Monday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Monday evening of the month. The November meeting will be on Monday the 23rd at 7:00 p.m. 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!

Horse was our October selection. In it Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks shares the fascinating story of the greatest racehorse in American history, with all of the people and events surrounding him, using a discarded painting and a skeleton in a Smithsonian attic. Set in both the present and the past, the true story of Lexington takes us through his racing career during the Civil War era, accompanied by his enslaved groom, Jarret. An itinerant artist paints the picture of Lexington that connects the story to a found skeleton being studied by a Smithsonian scientist and a Nigeria American art historian in 21st-century Washington DC. Together they reconstruct the story of Lexington, the record-breaking thoroughbred. And, as a bonus, find out where to see Lexington's preserved skeleton!







A Life Empowered by the Holy Spirit…
The One Called Alongside to Help



Dates: **Continuing on Wednesdays through November 11**
Time & Place: **7:00-8:30 p.m., on Zoom**
Facilitator: **Alice Parente**

As you walk through your life, do you continually have a sense of Someone walking with you and living inside you? Someone wanting to help you at all times … giving you the ongoing message "***Here if you need me***." In the Gospel of John, Jesus promised us just that: a "Paraclete," or "one called alongside to help." Jesus described this Someone as our divine Helper, Advocate, and Counselor who would stay with believers forever.

If this has not exactly been your lived experience, you are not alone. And you are invited to join an eight-week exploration with others wanting to delve into what exactly Jesus' promise means for each and all of us today. We will explore:

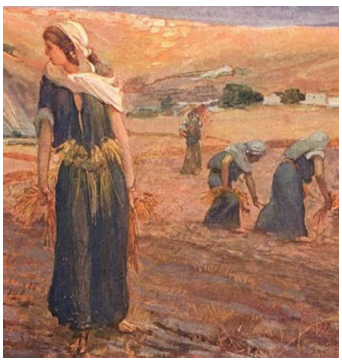
- **The biblical history of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, the life of Jesus, the book of Acts**
- **What exactly Jesus promised his disciples**
- **The roles of "the Helper": advocate, comforter, counselor, strengthener**
- **How the Helper works – teaches, prays for us, lives inside us.**

There will be no book for this class. Instead, we will utilize teachings, videos, and podcasts of Tim Mackie (*The Bible Project*), Tyler Staton (author of *The Familiar Stranger*), and others.

You are invited to come and see how the Holy Spirit speaks to us today. And what "***Here when you need me***" might mean for you.

For the Zoom link, email Alice Parente at vsas77@earthlink.net.





Great Is Thy Faithfulness: A Study of Ruth

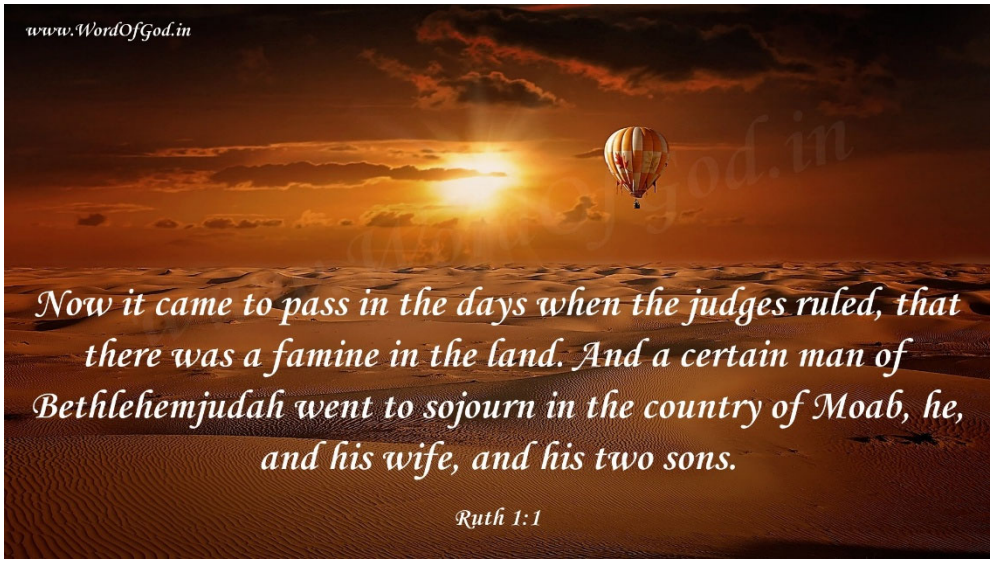
Dates: November 8, 15, 22, 29
Time: 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Location: Grace Room
Facilitator: Rev. Dennis Montzingo

As Christians, we generally trust God with the "big stuff," that he is sovereign over all his creation and that he is working out his great plan of redemption through history, culminating in his eternal kingdom under the rule of his Son, Jesus the Christ. But how does that help us in the midst of life's ups and downs when we are struggling just to survive and keep up with all the demands of daily living?

The short book of Ruth can be of great help to us as we wrestle with these questions. The book of Ruth gives us a snapshot of a faithful family, a faithful community and their faithful God living in an unsettled and tumultuous time in Israel's early history. During our study we will ask, along with Ruth, questions like: Does God care? Do we matter? Are we on God's radar? Does faithfulness matter? What is God's plan and what is our part? What is our hope?

Participants are encouraged to read the weekly Bible passages in advance of each session:

- **November 8 Ruth 1 "Your God, My God"**
- **November 15 Ruth 2 "Finding Favor"**
- **November 22 Ruth 3 "A Righteous Redeemer"**
- **November 29 Ruth 4 "Naomi Has a Son"**



RUN TO FEED THE HUNGRY

You are invited to **join us Thanksgiving Day for an early-morning run/walk that raises funds for the Sacramento Food Bank and its local partners.** Join Team Faith and Friends as we walk and run with the thousands of others putting their own feasting on hold for a while in order to help our neighbors who live with food insecurity.

To join in the endeavor, use this QR code to register under the team name Faith and Friends. We'll send some info about where to meet up on the morning of the race for a team photo. Deadline to register as part of the team is Friday, November 20. Contact Pastor Brett with any questions (916-428-3439, ext. 102; bshoemaker@faithpresby.org).







OKTOBERFEST RECAP!!

Faith's Annual Fall Dinner, Silent Auction & Raffle happened last month, and it was a rousing success!

It was a great night filled with laughter, fun, and quietly determined bidding. The menu was bratwurst, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, sauerkraut and root beer floats. The dinner was well attended with about 80 people there! The raffle and silent auction earned a good amount and there were no items left over. Auction items ranged from gift certificates to In 'n Out, the Sac State Aquatic Center, Scribner Bend Vineyard and Scott's Seafood, to baskets of goodies from Trader Joe's and Mrs. Renfro.

All of the proceeds will go to the Pat Tatro Camp Scholarship fund. Thanks to all who planned, set up and attended to make this a fun and successful event.



Presbyterian Women: November/December Fellowship

Wednesday, November 18, 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.

Enjoy a fabulous early holiday performance – "The Great Christmas Caper," brought to us by the Eric Rainwater Children's Choir. It's joyful to watch these incredibly talented young people perform, while bringing us a meaningful holiday message.

There will be time to catch up with one another over lunch and to hear from our board members. We welcome you to bring Holiday décor for the bazaar table as well as other treasures you are parting with. We will have a raffle – make sure you stop by the bazaar table!



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

Back by popular demand, our Christmas luncheon will be held Wednesday, December 2, beginning at 11:30 a.m., at The Izakaya Restaurant (5651 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento). Lunch is $25.00 per person including tax and tip. Tickets will be available for purchase through Sunday, November 22. The menu will be provided. There will be door prizes, singing and delicious food!

Our 2026 Christmas Mission Project will support **Our Father's House Outreach**. Details will be provided.
All Faith women are warmly invited to join us for these times of Christian friendship.

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

October Recap: Our Speaker for October was Felicita Cazares, founder of Our Father's House Outreach.

Felicita knows the adversities and challenges our youth face, having personally faced some of these same challenges as a Latina. Though she was determined from a young age to overcome personal adversity, she had no idea, of course, that she would one day be the founder of a non-profit focused on doing God's Kingdom work. Led by her strong Christian faith, Felicita founded Our Father's House Outreach (OFHO) as a 501(3)c in December 2024. The idea for OFHO was born during Thanksgiving 2015, when Felicita and her family fed aged-out and displaced foster adolescents hot holiday meals out on the streets of Sacramento. These early efforts grew into a desire to help more deeply and consistently by providing food, school supplies and clothing, all while offering a safe space for spiritual guidance. She wanted to help instill purpose in every life she touched and reassure each person that they and their future matter.

OFHO has no physical location, which gives the advantage of being mobile and meeting the needs of those served with little administrative cost. OFHO's core purpose is to offer a hand-up to those who live in poverty and struggle with food insecurity and the need for basic human essentials. Felicita oversees and coordinates the day-to-day activities of OFHO's growing team of volunteers as they glean and distribute donations to those in need in our local communities. Felicita focuses on serving disadvantaged individuals and their families, including youth in local Title 1 schools, in-need seniors, and the unhoused. Felicita ministers through OFHO's direct services and in collaboration with other nonprofits serving the same populations. We are better together! It is her joy to serve others in the name of Christ.

Meet Faith's Newest Members!

Faith's Elders recently met with Larry and Cherilyn Larsen, who were seeking to become members of Faith. If you haven't already had the pleasure of meeting these folks, we hope you will soon. In the meantime, by way of introduction, here are some brief bios based on information they shared with us.

Larry & Cherilyn Larsen



Larry Larsen has spent most of his life in California, though he did spend four years in Ohio farming and going to college. He is currently a part-time faculty member at Cosumnes River College in the Math Department. He likes audio books, solitaire, gardening, watching his favorite shows with Cherilyn, and playing international folk-dance music. He plays violin, accordion, recorder, and tamburica, which is a Serbian/Croatian mandolin. Fun fact: Larry and Cherilyn met through folk dancing at Stanford University on Friday nights!

Cherilyn Larsen was born and raised in California. She is now retired, but previously served as the Children's Ministry Director at Soaring Oaks Presbyterian Church for 15 years. She likes quilting, gardening, cooking, reading, studying the Bible, spending time with friends and family, hanging out with her grandkids and watching movies. She and Larry were invited to Faith by longtime friends and fellow homeschoolers Rick and Kathy Stern. Cherilyn is very happy with the kindness and welcome she and Larry have received at Faith.



Sing with Faith's Christmas Choir!



You are warmly invited to join Faith's Christmas Choir. If you love to sing but are not able to commit to the full year of singing with the Chancel Choir, this may be just the right fit for you. The Christmas Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room and sanctuary. **The first rehearsal is this Thursday, November 5.** Interested? Contact Director of Music Ministry Mark Tootle for more details. Or, simply show up on the evening of November 5th as we prepare beautiful music for Advent and Christmastide.



Elder: Lucy DaCastello
Report Date: September 2026

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 worship services by the Stewardship Elder. This year, we launched the campaign on September 6, and a letter introducing the campaign was emailed to the congregation shortly after.

Thank you to Elders Stan Keasling (Person nel Ministry) and Kathy Stern (Adult Christian Formation Ministry), and to Erin Gilbert on behalf of the Mission Team, for presenting during services on September 20 and 27 and sharing some of the ways our tithes and offerings are used in their area of ministry. This was also an opportunity to present ministry needs and ways the congregation can give of their time and talents.

Stewardship Packets were available for pick-up on September 27 after services. The packet contained information for the congregation to prepare for Commitment Sunday, including a letter from Pastor Jeff and two pledge cards – one financial and one for time and talents. Pledge cards for children and youth were made available to families. The Stewardship Team assisted with distributing the packets and mailing those not picked up.

October 4 was **Commitment Sunday**. Our annual Ministry Fair coincided with Commitment Sunday and helped us focus on how we can give of our time and talents, as well as our finances.

Jennifer Anders worked with office staff to make available an online 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 and preparing giving statements and tithing envelopes.

Stewardship team member John Rodriguez is the expert and contact person for anyone who is interested in information about donations from retirement accounts and non-retirement accounts. His contact information was included in the letter emailed to the congregation.

Updates following Commitment Sunday are attached to Stewardship's Monthly Reports.

I am very thankful to the Stewardship Team and to Jennifer Anders for all of their expertise and advisement.



MONTHLY FOCUS REPORT: OUTREACH MINISTRY

Elder: Kay Lum
Report Date: October 2026

The Outreach Team's mission is to extend Christ's welcome beyond the walls of the sanctuary by actively inviting seekers, embracing visitors, serving our local community and equipping members of Faith Church to speak confidently and boldly about their faith and love of Jesus Christ our Lord and to be ready always to give an answer for our faith. To this end, we have the following activities:

Streetside Banners

These banners draw people's attention to the church, making them aware of the times of the services and special events and inviting them in for a visit. We have two very enthusiastic volunteers, Greg Collins and Darwin Jones, to manage these banners. Both of these men started coming to Faith because of the banners out front. David Nash has been helpful in explaining about brand compliance, which regulates the banners' use of symbols, fonts and colors.

Welcome Center

It has been a year since we launched the Welcome Center. And since we now have a very inviting and warmly decorated narthex, the Welcome Center is the perfect location to meet and greet newcomers with a welcome gift and a friendly handshake. Visitors also fill out a "Connect" form for follow-up. Janeil Hogue is the coordinator, and she manages a rotating team of 15 friendly volunteers who make this center truly special. After the Ministry Fair, we have an additional four volunteers to serve in this endeavor. Scheduling is now completely online with a sign-up link. Finding coverage for the 11:00 service remains an ongoing challenge. Congestion at the Welcome Center has been an issue with access for newcomers, but a simple solution of relocating sign-ups for various church activities solves this problem.

Look at Faith

This monthly reception, which occurs on the last Sunday of the month between services, is well-received by all who attend. Visitors come with a desire to learn more about our church and to have a few questions answered. Now we have a team of four rotating hosts, along with the pastors. Team members are Claire Pisor, Elaine Collins, Linda Olsen and Mike Sanchez. After the Ministry Fair, we have an additional four volunteers. Besides inviting attendees to share a brief introduction about themselves and about how they came to Faith, we offer them an information packet that can help them find ways to connect with our church. Pastor Jeff recently added a brochure explaining what it means to be a Presbyterian, including a brief history of the Presbyterian church.

Marriage Course

This course was offered in the spring of this year and it was attended by couples from the community as well as by members of our congregation. There were 10 couples; 20 can be accommodated. They enjoyed eight weekly evenings "out on a date," enjoying delicious, restaurant-quality dinners. At their private table for two, each couple had guided conversations designed to deepen and enrich their marriage. This ministry was supported by 25 to 30 dedicated volunteers each week. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Looking Forward

We are eagerly seeking God's guidance on Outreach's direction and opportunities for this coming year.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Wednesday, November 11
6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Link Hall

Share Christ's joy with kids around the world!



Faith's youth are once again leading the way as we participate in Operation Christmas Child 2026. ***Everyone*** is invited to join in as we fill shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for children in need and share with them the love of Christ.

Here are three ways you can lend a hand:

1. **Help purchase the items** that will be packed into each shoebox (see list on back). Drop your items in the "Operation Christmas Child" donation bin in the Welcome Center by Tuesday, November 10.
2. **JOIN US in Link Hall on Wednesday, November 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** as we stuff the shoeboxes full of good things!
3. **Contribute towards shipping expenses.** Each box costs $12 to send.

Buying Guidance for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

For a more complete list, go to:
https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/

What to Pack:

New items only — nothing used or damaged!

Toys: Include items that children will immediately embrace, such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, puzzles, Frisbees, etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils with sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, etc. (No liquids, lotions, gels or pastes; no bar soap or lip balm)

Accessories: T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Crafts: Make your own items, such as hair bows, finger puppets, bracelets.

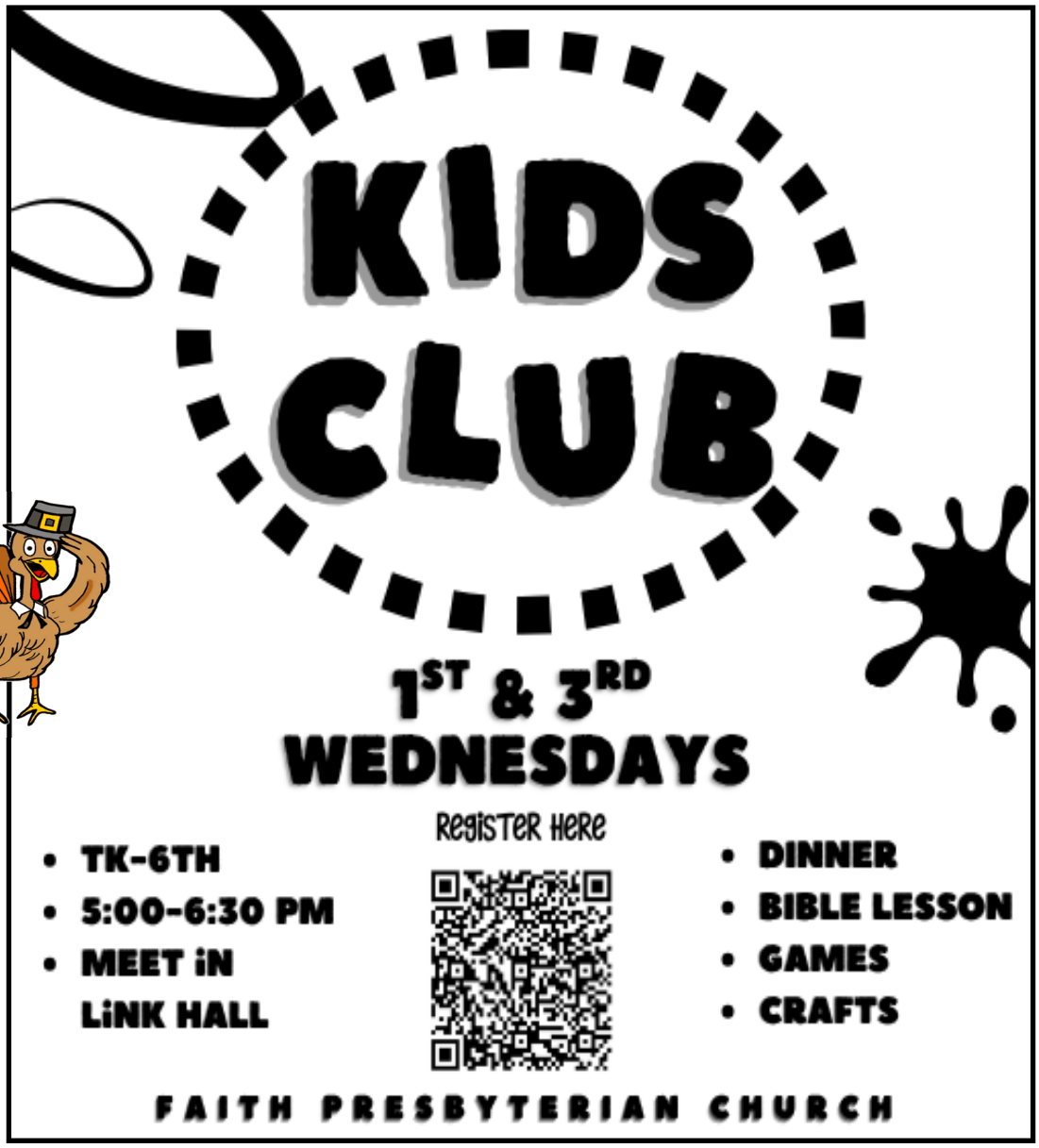
A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself, your family, or your group. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

What NOT to Pack:

Used or damaged items; war-related items, such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; food of any kind, including candy and gum; drinks or drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids, lotions or gels; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosols; toothpaste.

NOTE: Dollar Store is a great starting place. Feel free to purchase items that come in packages and can be broken down into several shoeboxes, like packages of pencils, toothbrushes, glue sticks, etc. We also always need larger "wow!" items (stuffed animals, toys, games…) that fill the center of the box, around which we can then pack the smaller items.

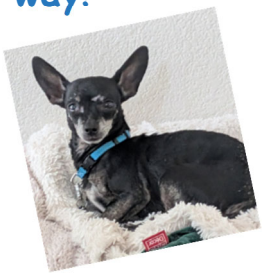
Donation bin will be in the Welcome Center through Tuesday, November 10.



Presby Pets: Looking for stories and cute pictures! Send them our way!





If you have a pet story to share, please send to Suzie Hughes at suzan.hughes@synectics.net
Be sure to include photos!