



Christ in Us
Part 3—Indestructibly Joyful
Luke 10:17-22

We are more like ourselves when joy is the fundamental thing in us, and grief the superficial....

Joy is the uproarious labor by which all things live.

-G. K. Chesterton

Welcome, Guests!

Friends,

We are glad you are here with us and hope you sense God's presence in worship today. If there is any way we can be of help to you, don't hesitate to ask. Here are a few of the questions we often hear from our guests when they first visit:

- ~ **How long is the worship service here at Faith?** Our worship services typically run 60 to 70 minutes.
- ~ **How can I introduce myself?** We'd love to meet you after the service; don't hesitate to introduce yourself! You can also visit our webpage (www.faithpresby.org), and click on the "I'm New" tab and then the "Introduce Yourself" button. This is a great way to let the pastoral staff know who you are and how we might welcome and serve you. Also, stop by the Welcome Center on the way out. We have a gift waiting for you there! And if you need a Bible, we can offer you one there as well.
- ~ **I have kids. Are they welcome here?** Absolutely! We love the sounds of children in the sanctuary. During the children's message at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, kids up to 6th grade are invited to come up front to listen in. Having them stay with you to listen is also fine. After the children's message, children are invited down the hall to Room 4 (grades 3 to 6) and Room 5 (Pre-K to 2nd grade) with our children's staff. Nursery care is available throughout the 9:00 a.m. worship service in Room 7.
- ~ **Are there classes for adults?** Yes. Check the bulletin and listen for announcements in worship about upcoming classes. We currently have in-person and online classes.
- ~ **What if I have trouble hearing the service?** If you have difficulty hearing, please ask one of our ushers for a personal receiver for the hearing impaired. Also, a T-Loop hearing-assist system is available in the back four pews on the right side of the sanctuary. Set your hearing aid to the "T" setting.
- ~ **How can I find out more information about Faith?** Feel free to speak to any of us and if we can't answer your questions, we'll find somebody who can. Our website is a great source of information: www.faithpresby.org. Also, *This Week @ Faith* is a weekly email that goes out on Mondays with information about upcoming opportunities and activities. Email Laura Anderson in our office at landerson@faithpresby.org if you'd like to be included on the email distribution list.
- ~ **What if I'm interested in exploring membership or deeper involvement at Faith?** If you'd like to know more about becoming a member at Faith, or want to understand how you can begin or continue to grow in your Christian faith, we encourage you to contact one of our pastors. You can call the church office at (916) 428-3439 or email one of our staff members. (Email addresses are available on our webpage and further on in this bulletin.) We'd love to meet you and find out how we can be of help.

Again, we are glad you are here with us today!

Grace and peace—The People of Faith



Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

Order of Worship

✠ *Those who are able, please stand.*
Please silence all electronics before the start of worship.

Prelude

Eunice Bancu; Faith Brass Ensemble (11:00)

Greeting

Brett Shoemaker

One: Christ has risen!

All: **Christ has risen indeed!**

✠ Call to Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candles

Miles Febre (9:00)

Ben Chand (11:00)

✠ Song of Praise (All songs used by permission CCLI #676622)

Traveling Light

Prayer of Confession

Brett Shoemaker

Response to Confession

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pass the peace of Christ.

Welcome

Brett Shoemaker

Moment for Ministry: Vacation Bible School

Lindsay Stanford

Anthem (11:00)

Faith Chancel Choir

Like a River in My Soul

(Trad. spiritual, arr. T. Osiek, ed. D. Forrest)

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got peace like a river, soothing river,
calmly flow.

When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, endless ocean,
deep and full.

When you're lost and alone,

let the waves bring you home.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.

When your hope nearly dies just remember, once again,
You shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain, love like an ocean,

peace like a river, in my soul,
Like a fountain, like an ocean, like a river in my soul.

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:17-22

Dennis Montzingo (9:00); Claire Pisor (11:00)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

At this point in the 9:00 service, children pre-K to 6th grade are invited either to be excused to our children's programs or to return and sit with their families.

Prayer of Illumination

Message

Jeff Chapman

*Christ in Us
Part 3—Indestructibly Joyful*

After the sermon, 7th & 8th graders are invited to the Youth Room for Donuts & Discussion.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Claire Pisor

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Giving & Receiving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Dennis Montzingo (9:00)

Claire Pisor (11:00)



*After worship, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. You may also give online at faithpresby.org under the "Give" tab.
This QR code will take you directly there.*

Time & Talents Offering/Bless the Ways We Serve

Linda Olsen-Edgar

✠**Doxology** (*literally, Words to Glorify*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠**Prayer of Dedication**

✠**Hymn of Faith**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!
#145, The Presbyterian Hymnal

✠**Benediction**

✠**Postlude**

Eunice Bancu; Faith Brass Ensemble (11:00)

*If you would like to have someone pray with you for any reason,
there will be a prayer team available in the front row immediately after worship this morning.
Prayer Team: Audrey Newport & Anthony Shelton (9:00) and Lucy DaCastello & Pam Rock (11:00)*

Announcements and Events

Family Ministry

Rooted & Growing



Sundays 9:00 AM



Nursery
Newborn-3 yr



Godly Play
TK-2nd



Worship & Wonder
3rd-6th

Where we learn to stay rooted in Christ
and always growing in faith

For questions about Faith's Sunday morning children's programs, contact Lindsay Stanford, Director of Family Ministry, at lstanford@faithpresby.org.

Childcare During Adult Sunday School

We are excited to let you know that if you are an adult who would like to attend Sunday school but need childcare in order to do so, Faith has you covered!

Director of Family Ministry Lindsay Stanford offers childcare between services for children whose parents/guardians are attending Sunday school. Sign up in advance (during the 9:00 a.m. service is fine!) using this QR code. Drop your children off with Lindsay after the 9:00 service. You'll find her outside near the play structure. Please pick up your tots within five minutes of the end of class.



Pre-Order Lunch for May PW Fellowship

Presbyterian Women's May fellowship will be their last fellowship until September. As a way of celebrating another year of sisterhood in Christ, they will enjoy box lunches from Sellands. If you were not able to pre-order yours at the April fellowship gathering and would like to do so, contact Cathy Healow for details about menu and cost. Reach her at chealow@yahoo.com or (916) 607-4742. **Deadline to order is May 17.**



Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianChurch

— LIGHTHOUSE —

GRADES 7-12

YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT!

HEARING GOD'S VOICE...

JOIN THE APP!



Contact Brett Shoemaker for more info and to get on our email list:
bshoemaker@faithpresby.org

Opportunities to Learn & Connect

Adult Sunday School

In Christ Alone: The Colossian Letter

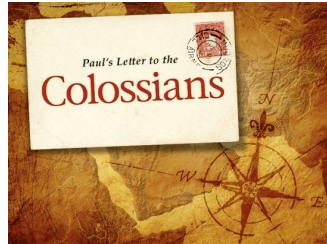
April 12, 19, 26; May 17, 24, 31

10:15 a.m., 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.”

RSVP by Thursday for the DON SPERLING GOLF OPEN

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

William Land Park Golf Course

Calling all Faith golfers! We hope you will join us on the morning of Saturday, May 16, when we hold **the inaugural Don Sperling Golf Open**. We'll be playing nine holes at the William Land Park Golf Course, and golfers of all ages, genders, abilities, and levels of seriousness are invited! Tee-times will be mid-morning, and we'll round out the day with a picnic BBQ lunch near the final green. The only cost will be your own greens fees (and cart if needed).

Come and fellowship with the Faith community on the links! **RSVP to Pastor Brett by Thursday, April 30** (bshoemaker@faithpresby.org; 916-428-3439, ext. 102). Maximum of 20 players.

Join Us Whenever You Can!

Holy Spirit... The Stranger Within Us

Wednesday, April 8 to May 20

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

Facilitator: Alice Parente

As Christians, we believe there is a power greater than ourselves—One with the power to rescue us and our world. And currently, we *yearn* to see God's power in action amongst us.



According to Jesus, God's power is reflected in the Holy Spirit, who is the third and not-so-talked-about member of the Trinity.

In John 15 and 16, Jesus tells His disciples that after He leaves, He will send them an Advocate, the Spirit of truth. The book of Acts is filled with testimonials about the arrival and power of the Spirit amongst the people.

But Jesus didn't send that Advocate, that Spirit, only to that particular time and place, only to those particular people. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with God's people forever.

Given this truth about the presence of the Holy Spirit with us, how can we, as followers of Jesus today, come to know more fully the *reality* and the *power* of the Holy Spirit in and among us—just as the disciples did way back when? How can we faithfully and courageously live into the experience of Jesus within us here in this place, among today's people?

Holy Spirit: The Stranger Within Us is a seven-week opportunity to explore Jesus' invitation into an authentic, lived friendship with the Spirit—the very presence of Jesus himself within and among us.

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

If you'd like to join or have questions, please let Alice Parente know at vsas77@earthlink.net.

Opportunities to Connect & Serve

Walk 2 Miles. Help change the World!

Walk4Water

TODAY at 10:15 a.m.

Around the world, women and children walk miles every day to find water that isn't even clean. We can help lighten their load ... today!

In partnership with World Vision's Abaya, Ethiopia, Area Development Program, Faith is having its annual **Walk4Water after the 9:00 service today**. We'll walk two miles roundtrip, carrying a jug of water on the return, as a way to raise funds for clean water in Abaya.

You can donate and/or walk this morning, and all are warmly invited to picnic with us on the patio afterwards! To register as a walker or to donate to the cause of clean water, use this QR code. Thank you! And please join us as we Walk4Water so that our global brothers and sisters no longer have to.



New to Faith? *We'd like the chance to meet you!*

If you are new to Faith Church, we would like to invite you to an informal reception so we can get to know you, and in turn you can get to know us. Our next Look @ Faith reception is **this morning at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room**.

The reception lasts about 30 minutes. You'll have the opportunity to get to know others who have been coming to Faith, meet some of our leadership, and learn a few things about what makes this congregation unique. You may have questions about this church or about the Christian faith, and that's great—feel free to ask! This is just an informal opportunity to get to know one another. Come join us! *For more info, email Laura at landerson@faithpresby.org.*



New Life Groups Are Starting This Spring

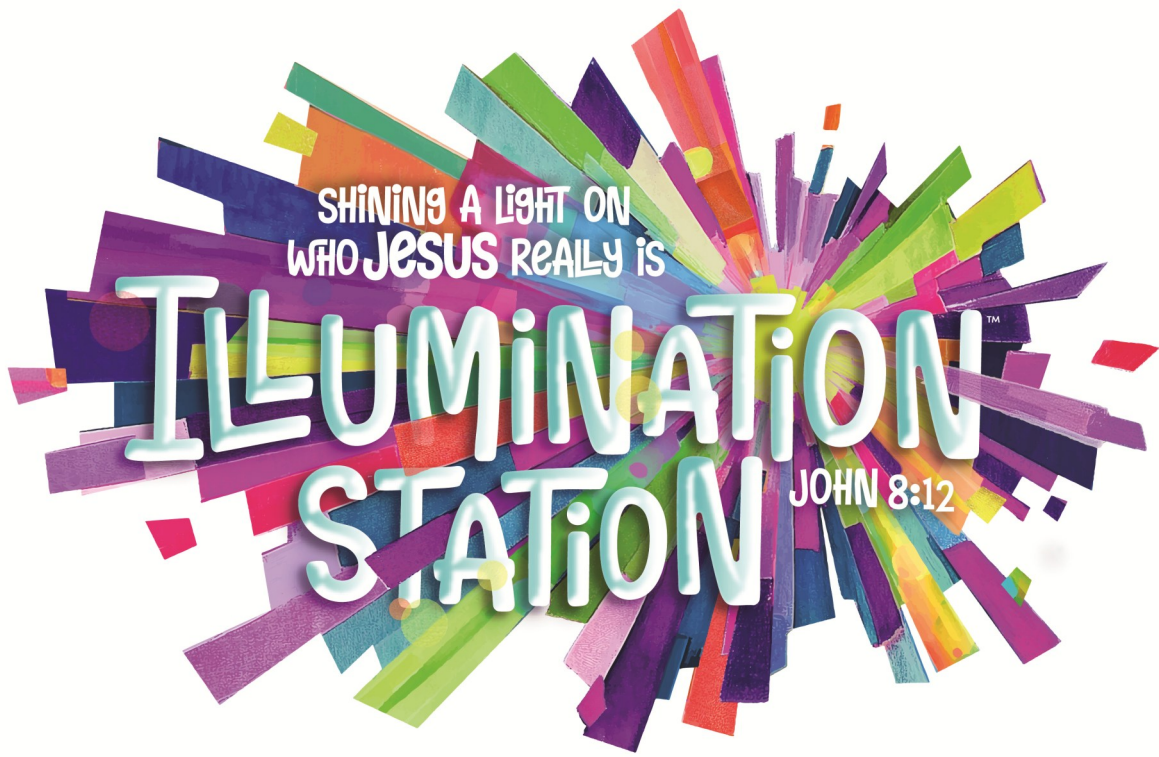
It's a great time to join!

Life Groups are small groups (4-12) of people who meet weekly for Bible study, prayer and community. These groups have been instrumental in fostering spiritual growth and building friendships for many here at Faith. While Life Groups are always open to receiving new members, the time when a new group is forming can be an especially good time to join. The following groups are starting up:

- Sunday morning co-ed group; meets on the Faith campus between services from 10:15 to 11:15.
- Wednesday evening co-ed group in Elk Grove (6:30 p.m.); meets every other week.
- Wednesday evening co-ed group (5:30 p.m.); meets in homes.
- Thursday afternoon men's group (3:00 p.m.); meets in homes.

If you are interested in checking out one of the groups, please contact either Janelle Hendricks (joyfuljanelle@gmail.com) or Jeff Chapman (jchapman@faithpresby.org).





Vacation Bible School 2026—Registration Is Now Open!

June 15-19, 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Faith

You may need your sunglasses at Vacation Bible School this summer because we are stepping into the light to find out how it reveals Jesus to us. And **Jesus is BRILLIANT!** Join us for this week of worship, Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and joyful fun as we get to know Jesus better as the True Light of our world.

VBS will take place right here at Faith the week of June 15 to 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Children in Pre-K to 6th grade are welcome to be a part of this fantastic time of learning about Jesus, in the good company of caring adults, a few zany characters, and plenty of friends, old and new.

Register using the QR code at right, or see the direct link in tomorrow's "This Week @ Faith" email. Contact Director of Family Ministry Lindsay Stanford with any questions (916-428-3439, ext. 106; lstanford@faithpresby.org).

Register Here:



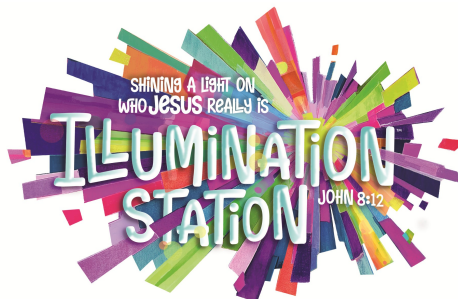
Calling All Adult & Youth VBS Volunteer Leaders...

...because **you know we can't do it without you!** Online sign-up forms are now ready for adults and youth who would like to volunteer as VBS leaders. Scan the appropriate QR code below to get started. We look forward to hearing from you!



Adult Volunteers

Adult Volunteers



Youth Volunteers

Youth Volunteers

LAST CHANCE FOR THE MEN & BOYS' RETREAT 2026

MAY 1-3 ~ WESTMINSTER WOODS ~ AGES 5 TO 105

Registration is now open for our not-to-be-missed Men & Boys' Retreat. This weekend retreat is designed for men of all ages. It is not a father-son retreat, though we love it when dads bring their sons, or granddads their grandsons! It's a weekend filled with opportunities for rich fellowship, much-needed rest, great food, lots of laughter, and practical teaching that will inspire us in our walk with Christ.

Our speaker this year is Jeremy Bouris. His theme will be "The Inner Man: Understanding the Core Desires of Every Man's Heart." Every man's heart longs for acceptance and respect, strength and courage, confidence and self-worth. We are hardwired to pursue these things. Jeremy will help us better understand how together, and in Christ, we can journey towards seeing these realized in our lives. Jeremy is married to his wife of fifteen years, Lisa, and is the father of three children. He is currently the director of the Bayside Counseling Center.



Access the online registration form via the QR code. On the form, you'll see several housing options available, from tent camping to the lodge. You'll also notice that there are several different cost options available, from full price to subsidized. We don't want finances to keep anyone from participating! Look over the options, and if further financial help would make it possible for you to attend, we also have generous campership funds available. If you would like to request a campership, reach out to **Pastor Jeff or Pastor Brett** before you register online. He will give you a special code to enter when you register. Hope to see you at the Woods!



Opportunity to Support China's Miao People



Today after both worship services, Barbara Nixon will have available for purchase handcrafts made by the Miao people of central China. There will be an array of purses, eyeglass cases, wallets and more, all bearing the Miao women's distinctive embroidery and craftsmanship. Ten percent of your purchase will support Faith's Summer Mission Trip to Alaska. The remainder will support the Miao crafters, as well as outreach efforts to meet more hilltribe people with Christ's love. Purchases may be made by cash or check. Look for Barbara out on the patio, at the tables under the redwoods.

You're Invited to Do Some Spring Cleaning With Faith's Property Team!

Faith's Property Team invites you to come out and help them do some spring cleaning on our grounds. We'll gather **next Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Lunch will be provided. We'll do some weeding, trimming and pruning, and small repair and maintenance tasks. There will be something for everyone! Bring your own gloves and any tools that you think will be helpful. You may want a hat, sunscreen, and a water bottle as well. We know it's the Men's Retreat, but we're hoping that those who don't attend will show up energized to help us steward well the property that God has entrusted to us.

Serving on Sunday at Faith

	Serving Today (4/26)		Serving Next Sunday (5/3)	
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Miles Febre	Ben Chand	Elysia Fletcher	TBD
Coffee Hosts	Clint & Mai Scott Melanie Scott	Paul & Betty Keller	First Sunday Sabbath	Lorraine Otani Sylvia Warner
Communion Servers	N.A.	N.A.	Cathy Healow Janet Leader Claire Pisor Donna Touros	Ann Johnson Alice Parente Barbara Tracy Jim Tracy
Greeters	Frank DeYoung Marianne Jenkins	Kathy Fields Jim Tracy	Bill Edgar & Linda Olsen-Edgar	Georgianne Becker
Lock-up	N.A.	Tom Busch	N.A.	Efua Bannerman
Media Center Techs	Dave Anders Audrey Newport	Rick Hom	David Nash Andrew Chen	Joe Parente
Pew Crew	<i>Serving 4/27 – 4/30</i>	Jane Owen	<i>Serving 5/4 – 5/7</i>	Cynde Keasling
Prayer Team	Audrey Newport Anthony Shelton	Lucy DaCastello Pam Rock	Claire Pisor	Georgianne Becker Alice Parente
Teller Escorts	Bob DeYoung	Jarvis Arellano	Bill Edgar	Jarvis Arellano
Tellers	N.A.	Erwina Bush Jim Tracy	N.A.	Jarvis Arellano Kitty Tatro
Ushers	Bob & Tanya Anderson	Sylvia Warner	Donna Touros	TBD
Welcome Ctr.	Barbara Johnson	Janeil Hogue	TBD	TBD
Worship Asst.	Dennis Montzingo	Claire Pisor	Dawn Vollmar	Alice Parente

Faith Worship Band: Eunice Bancu, Michaela Bannerman, Shane Bannerman, Esther Chapman, Andrew Chen, Sue Kim, Cindi Kinney, Paul Kinney, Carolyn Kubish, Paul Philleo, Zach Roberts, Makayla Van Duyn, Vickie Weaver Owens and Jill Whitney.

Faith Brass Ensemble: José Hermocillo, Tom McDuffie, Fred Noteware, Betsy Pehrson, Dan Pehrson, Paul Philleo, Steve Rock, Laura Schneider and Carolyn Tillman (Director).

Faith Chancel Choir: Cynthia Abbott, Gregory Collins, Joe De Illy, Sally Evey, Jessica Flash, Paul Heaton, Janeil Hogue, Sue Kim, Cindi Kinney, Paul Kinney, Carolyn Kubish, Barbara LaPlaca, Kay Lum, Phil Lum, Betsy Pehrson, Dan Pehrson, Paul Philleo, Ken Pisor, April Reichert, Edna Rush, Ron Sprinkle and Charlotte Van Wagner.

Faith Staff Members ~ Contact Us

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Brett Shoemaker ~ Associate Pastor	bshoemaker@faithpresby.org
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Mark Tootle ~ Director of Music Ministry	mtootle@faithpresby.org

All Members of the Church ~ Ministers

Faith Presbyterian Church ~ 625 Florin Road, Sacramento, 95831 ~ www.faithpresby.org ~ (916) 428-3439

This Week @ Faith: April 26 – May 2

SUNDAY

- **Worship—9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)**
- Look @ Faith—10:15 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Walk 4 Water—10:15 a.m. (Patio)
- Adult Sunday School—10:15 a.m. (Grace Rm)
- Our Savior's Anglican Church—12 p.m. (Link Hall)
- Immanuel Indonesian Church—4 p.m. (Link Hall)
- Youth Group—7 p.m. (Youth Rm, Link Hall)
- AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

MONDAY

- BSF Leaders Meeting—9 a.m. (Link Hall, Rms 2, 4, 5, 7)
- Faith Staff Meeting—9:30 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Crafters—1 p.m. (Rm 2)
- Men's Life Group—1:30 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- Men's Discipleship Cohort—5:30 p.m. (Grace Rm)
- Women's Discipleship Cohort—5:30 p.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Women's Discipleship Cohort—7 p.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Mission Team Meeting—7 p.m. (Grace Rm)
- Women's Book Club—7 p.m. (Off site)
- Women's AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

TUESDAY

- Morning Prayer—7:30 a.m. (Online)
- BSF—9 a.m. (All rooms)
- Life Group—2:30 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- Life Group—4 p.m. (Grace Rm)
- Marriage Course—6:30 p.m. (Link Hall)
- Girl Scouts—6:30 p.m. (Rm 4)
- AA Meeting—8 p.m. (Rm 2)

WEDNESDAY

- Women's Life Group—10 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Worship Band Rehearsal—6 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- Life Group—7 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- Men's AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

THURSDAY

- Men's Life Group—7:30 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Staff Prayer—9 a.m. (Online)
- Women's Life Group—9:30 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- VBS Prep Team—10 a.m. (Link Hall)
- Women's Life Group—10:30 a.m. (Grace Rm)
- Choir Rehearsal—7 p.m. (Sanctuary, Choir Rm)
- AA Meeting—8 p.m. (Rm 2)

FRIDAY

- Men & Boys' Retreat—The Woods

SATURDAY

- Tai Chi—8:30 a.m. (Courtyard)
- Property Spring Clean-up—9 a.m. (Outdoors on Campus)
- Faith Brass Ensemble—9:30 a.m.

Except as noted, the Faith Church office is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Friday by appointment.

Calendar at a Glance

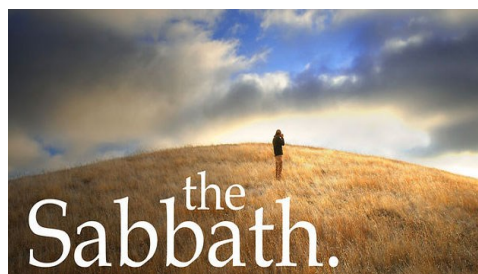
Upcoming dates of note in our life at Faith

April 26	Walk4Water
May 1-3	Men & Boys' Retreat
May 24	Pentecost
June 15-19	Vacation Bible School
July 27-30	Academy of Arts, Week 1
August 3-6	Academy of Arts, Week 2
August 9	AOA Performance
September 11-13	All-Church Fall Retreat

First Sunday Sabbath

Pray and Play Next Sunday!

Please plan to join us next Sunday, May 3, at 10:15 a.m. when we celebrate **First Sunday Sabbath**. All meetings and adult classes are paused that morning (and on the first Sunday of every month) so that we can gather simply to worship and fellowship together. Come and enjoy good food and great company after the first worship service. We'll gather in Link Hall, and on the patio, too, if the weather is good. Don't miss this wonderful time of Christian fellowship!



Message Notes

Christ in Us

Part 3—Indestructibly Joyful

Questions to Consider...

The following questions and scriptures are provided for Life Groups and individuals who want to reflect further on today's message.

1. Read again the passage from Luke 10:17-22. Read the previous part of the chapter if that helps you get the context. What stands out to you from these verses?
2. How do you define joy? And is that how most people define joy?
3. By your own definition, would you describe yourself as a person of joy? If so, what is the reason for your joy? If not, what hinders you from being a joyful person?
4. The disciples in this passage were corrected by Jesus because they were rooting their joy in something fleeting, like success in ministry. Talk about what fleeting thing you tend to root your joy in. How might Jesus want to redirect you?
5. When Jesus tells the disciples to rejoice because their names are written in heaven, what is he telling them? And can we rejoice for the same reason?
6. Pastor John Piper said this about Jesus: "Jesus Christ is the happiest being in the universe. His gladness is greater than all the angelic gladness of heaven. He mirrors perfectly the infinite, holy, indomitable mirth of his Father.... He is glad with the very gladness of God." Do you agree? Do you think Jesus was the most joyful person who ever lived? If so, what evidence do you have for this?
7. Consider scriptures like James 1:2-3: **"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."** How can a person suffer and be joyful at the same time? Have you ever had this experience?
8. What do you think about the simple practice Jeff offered, the practice of considering one difficult or unhappy circumstance in your life and applying some passage from scripture to that circumstance which speaks to God's promise to eventually set things right? How might you do this?



Table to Table: Something for kids and adults to consider together

Do you ever picture Jesus laughing? If so, what do you think he laughed about?
Is God joyful?

Meeting With God This Week

To help you LISTEN to God...

For your continued times of meeting with God daily, we offer the following passages from God's Word for your reflection. If you need a Bible, let us know and we'll give you one. We encourage you to keep a journal at hand to write down what you hear as you listen to God's Word. If you are new to all this, these steps may help you get started:

Invite - Find a time and space where you can have at least fifteen minutes of privacy and silence. Begin by taking a moment to simply ask God to meet you. Expect God to answer your prayer and show up.

Scripture - Read slowly through the passage for the day (we offer suggestions below). Read it again, if you like. Pay attention to phrases or ideas that particularly strike you.

Listen and Reflect - Use a journal to write down what you hear God saying in these verses. What is God telling you about himself? What is God telling you about your life? What is God telling you he wants you to do or to do differently? What questions are raised? What promises are revealed? Write what you hear.

Respond - Use the 3 R's. **#1 - Rejoice!** What have I heard from God which causes me to praise God and give thanks? Pray accordingly. **#2—Repent.** What have I heard from God that brings to light sin in my life or change that needs to take place? **#3—Request.** What have I heard from God that informs the way I pray for myself and others? (The guide in the column to the right, "To Help You Speak with God," may be useful as you pray for others this week.)

Suggested Scriptures for the Week, as we offer God a portion of each day in His Word.

Monday:	II Samuel 11 & 12 / Ps. 113
Tuesday:	II Samuel 13 & 14 / Ps. 114
Wednesday:	II Samuel 15 & 16 / Ps. 115
Thursday:	II Samuel 17 & 18 / Ps. 116
Friday:	II Samuel 19 & 20 / Ps. 117
Saturday:	II Samuel 21 & 22 / Ps. 118
Sunday:	II Samuel 23 & 24 / Ps. 119

To help you SPEAK with God...

♦Pray for Our Faith Family, Especially...

Wally & Martha Smith ~ Steven & Janin Smolen; Jade, Emily, Jonny ~ Sandy Smoley ~ Beverly Sommerdorf ~ Jan Sperling; Steve.

♦Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

For Healing & Strength: Carol Keller, Bob Johnson, Clara Murrels, Kristen Bye, Barbara Tracy, Cheryl Chan, Sandy Smoley, Nick LaPlaca, Skip Watt, Julene Leonard, John Ravas, Marvette Swayzer, Lucy DaCastello.

♦Church Leadership:

Brett Shoemaker Associate Pastor
Kathy Stern Elder, Adult Christian Formation
Sally Evey Deacon, Parish 5

♦Other Opportunities for Prayer

Prayer Chain: Contact Alice Parente at vsas77@earthlink.net to share a prayer concern or to become part of the prayer chain.

Pre-Service Prayer: We meet in the Fireside Room every Sunday morning at 8:30 for prayer before worship. All are welcome.

Prayer After Worship: If you would like someone to pray with you, our prayer team will be available at the front of the church immediately following worship this morning.

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Gathering:

All are welcome to join us for prayer on Zoom Tuesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. Using a psalm or other scripture as our guide, we pray

together—some silently, some aloud. Most of us keep our cameras off. It's wonderful to start our day in this way together. The Zoom ID is **871 3470 6671**.



