



# Faith

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A community** loving Christ,  
building disciples, serving all

*Judgment to Joy*  
**Luke 15:1-10**

*“There is no nobler work than bringing the wanderer home to the Father.”*

*-Andrew Murray*

# 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](http://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.
- ~ **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

## 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

Laura Anderson

One: The Lord be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

### ✠ Call to Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candles

Miriam Gilbert (9:00)  
Madison Stanford (11:00)

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

*Just As I Am*

### Prayer of Confession

Brett Shoemaker

### Response to Confession

*Traveling Light*

### ✠ 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: Memorial Planning Guide

Sally Evey

### Anthem

Faith Chancel Choir

*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name* (T. Fettke, L. Lee Johnson)

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of Your fingers;

The moon and stars suspended in space,

What is man, that You are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor

And have made him a little lower than the angels.

You have put him in charge of all creation:

The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish in the sea.

But what is man, oh, what is man that You are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of Your name

Transcends the earth, and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly, and so would we.

Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name. Alleluia!

**Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10**

David Nash (9:00); Lucy DaCastello (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**

Brett Shoemaker

*Judgment to Joy*

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer**

Laura Anderson

**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 & Our Offerings**

David Nash (9:00)  
Lucy DaCastello (11:00)

*After worship, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.  
You may also give online or by mail.*

**Moment for Stewardship**

Stan Keasling

**✠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

**✠Prayer of Blessing** (11:00)

Sutter Kim

**✠Benediction**

*If you would like to have somebody pray with you for any reason,  
there will be a prayer team available in the front row immediately after worship this morning.*

*Prayer Team: Laura Anderson & Randy Smith (9:00) and Renee Larsen & Ileana Maestas (11:00)*

*Today's flowers are given in honor of Mary Ann Chapman by her loving family in honor of her birthday.*

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

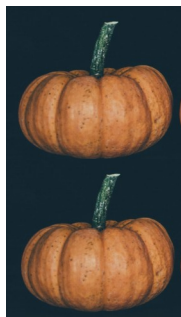
If you are new to Faith Church, we would like to invite you to an informal reception so we can get to know you, and in turn you can get to know us. Our next Look @ Faith reception is **Sunday, September 28, at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.**

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](mailto:landerson@faithpresby.org).*



### **Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction**

**Sunday, September 28, starting at 4:00 p.m. in Link Hall**



#### **Tickets on sale Sundays through September 21**

Tickets are available for purchase in the narthex after worship: \$10 per adult, \$5 per youth 12 to 18, and free for kids under 12.

Or, use the QR code at right to purchase online.



#### **Donation Deadline Is This Morning!**

Making a donation for the Harvest Dinner's auction? (And we hope you are!) Today is the deadline to drop off your item, along with a completed auction donation form. Please give your items to the folks selling Harvest Dinner tickets at the table in the narthex. And thank you so much for contributing to the fun and success of the Harvest Dinner and Auction! As a reminder, all net proceeds from this event go to the Pat Tatro Memorial Campership Fund, which helps make retreat and camp experiences more affordable for individuals and families.

# Announcements and Events

## Family Ministry



For questions about Faith's Sunday morning children's programs, contact Lindsay Stanford, Interim Co-Director of Family Ministry, at [lstanford@faithpresby.org](mailto:lstanford@faithpresby.org).

## Ministry Fair Is October 5

If you've ever wondered who Faith's elders are, what they do, and how you can get involved with one of their ministry teams, here's your chance to find out! **Join us on the patio on Sunday, October 5, at 10:15 a.m. for our annual Ministry Fair.** Each elder and their ministry team will have a table with information about what they do and how you can lend a hand. Not only this, but there will be some delicious snacks to enjoy as you wander from table to table. Join us—it makes a difference when you're here!



## Celebrating Ron Beams

After years of dedicated service on our staff, Ron Beams has now retired from Faith. **We hope you are planning to join us as we bless and honor Ron and celebrate his ministry on Sunday, October 12, between services.**

If you would like to contribute towards a gift of appreciation for Ron, make checks payable to Faith Presbyterian Church, with "Ron's Gift" on the memo line. To have your contribution included as part of the gift given on October

## YOUTH GROUP

*Now on Sundays!*

**Don't miss our "Lighthouse" Kickoff!**

**TONIGHT, 7:00—8:45 p.m.**

***All the crazy with each other and  
Jesus at a new time!***

Contact Brett Shoemaker for more info and to get on our email list:  
[bshoemaker@faithpresby.org](mailto:bshoemaker@faithpresby.org)



# Opportunities to Connect, Learn & Serve

*Adult Sunday School—Starts This Morning*

## **Visions of the Lord: A Study of Ezekiel**

**September 14, 21, 28**

**October 19, 26**

**November 9, 16, 23, 30**

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

**Facilitator: Rev. Dennis Montzingo**

Ezekiel, the Old Testament prophet to the Exile, communicates God's timeless messages to his people, who find themselves caught up in a life and a world beyond their control. As we study together the time and challenges of God's people in the 6th century B.C. who found themselves living in exile in Babylon, we will consider and discuss God's surprising and enduring presence and promises not only for their time but also for us in our ever-changing lives and world today.

Here is the upcoming schedule. Please read the weekly Bible texts in advance of each session.

September 14 (*no advance reading*)

Intro to Ezekiel: Biblical Prophecy

September 21

Visions of God Ezekiel 1

September 28

Prophetic Calling Ezekiel 2-3

October 19

God's Judgments Ezekiel 4-7

October 26

## **Last Call to Sing with the Choir!**

How wonderful it is to have Faith's Chancel Choir back in worship, leading us as we praise our God through music!

If you have been weighing whether or not to join the choir this year, it is time to "opt in." As a reminder, there

are no auditions, and folks of all ages and stages of life are warmly invited to be a part of this ministry that helps lead the congregation in musical worship.

If you would like to sing with the choir this year, come to rehearsal this Thursday from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room and Sanctuary. For more



## **Hearing Assist Devices Available in the Grace Room**

Great news! One of our tech-savvy Faith members was able to purchase and modify hearing assist devices and mic packs for use in the Grace Room. This means that those who find it hard to hear in the Grace Room should have an easier time of it now. For those who may have been avoiding Sunday school because of hearing difficulties, we hope you'll give these new devices a try. If you have any feedback, please share it with Laura in the

## **Come Make a Difference with SSIP!**

Come and volunteer with the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) Food Closet, and be a part of the team that helps feed over 15,000 of our neighbors each month. Whether you are looking to make a change, fulfill community service, pay it forward or serve in the name of Christ, there is a place for you at SSIP! While there are many volunteer options, the Food Closet is in special need of drivers to help with pickups of donated food items Monday to Friday mornings. To serve in this way, you must have a good driving record and be able to lift around 40 pounds. This commitment requires less than two hours per morning each time you serve, and it involves driving to local stores in SSIP vehicles.

If you would like to volunteer, or learn more, email [volunteers@SSIPfoodcloset.org](mailto:volunteers@SSIPfoodcloset.org) to get started. We hope



***New Online Class Begins October 1***

## **The Way of Jesus: Learning to Do What Jesus Did**

**Wednesdays, October 1 to November 19**

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

**Facilitator: Alice Parente**



Do you find it strange that we live in a world where everybody wants to be a leader, but nobody wants to be a follower? Jesus asked *everybody* to become a follower and didn't ask *anybody* to become a leader.

Maybe we need to re-define the word "follower." We have all kinds of stereotypes in our mind about leaders being strong and healthy and courageous, while followers seem compliant, lacking in choice and freedom. And that is not at all what Jesus had in mind when he offered people the opportunity to follow him.

You are invited to an eight-week class exploring and engaging in specific practices through which we can follow the Way of Jesus. We will practice ways to Be with Him; Become like Him; and Do as He did.

There is no book for this class. We will be using articles, podcasts, and videos created by widely renowned apprentices of Jesus, including some who came before us and practiced His way in their day and some who

## **Presbyterian Women's Fall Kickoff Fellowship**

**Wednesday, September 24, in Link Hall**

**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Check-in begins at 11:15)**

Faith's PW group kicks off their new year of fellowship on Wednesday, September 24. Our guest speaker that day will be our own Lance Pyle, who will share his poetry and illustrations with us. Lance has written 42 books, including photo/essay and children's books, sold worldwide. He is also a licensed architect, songwriter, Vietnam veteran and cancer survivor.

There will also be time to catch up with one another and to hear from our board members. There will be a raffle, and the bazaar table will be open for your donating/shopping pleasure.

All Faith women are warmly invited to join us for this time of Christian friendship. Bring your lunch;



***Join Us As, Together, We***

## **Rise Against Hunger**

**Saturday, November 15, 2025, in Link Hall, 9:00—Noon**

Rise Against Hunger is a fun and fast-paced food-packing event that the whole family can participate in. There are jobs for almost everyone, from preschoolers to seniors. Information will be coming soon about how to sign up to be a part of this mission event, but in the meantime please save the date and plan to join us as we package food that will be sent near and far to feed those who are hungry.



In addition to many hands available to help during the event itself, we will also need some folks to help

# Support Team World Vision as They Run for Clean Water

Faith's 2025 team for World Vision has been training hard for the Urban Cow 5K (on Saturday, September 27) and Half Marathon (on Sunday, September 28). This year "Team Faith and Friends" has 18 members, and so far these dedicated folks have raised nearly half of their audacious \$30,000 goal! All monies raised will be used by World Vision to bring clean water to communities that lack access to it.

In order to cross the fundraising finish line for clean water, the team is inviting their Faith family to partner in mission with them to bring clean water and fullness of life to kids in need.

Here are some ways to support the team:

- **Donate.** If you'd like to make a donation, please know that \$50 brings one person clean water for a lifetime. Talk about a great return on an investment! You can scan the QR code at right to donate online. (A direct link to the site will be sent in tomorrow's "This Week at Faith" email.) Once on the team page, you have the option of contributing to the team as a whole or to an individual member. If you prefer to pay by check, make your check payable to World Vision. You may place it in the offering basket or drop it off in the church office.
- **Pray.** Please pray for the team as they continue to train for and then participate in the race. Pray for their discipline and motivation as they continue to train faithfully and then for the stamina to run their race well. And prayers that everyone will remain injury free!
- **Cheer.** Finally, come out and cheer the team on at the Urban Cow, on either Saturday the 27th or Sunday the 28th. To find out how to do this or to ask any questions you may have, please contact Jill Whitney at



## Open Position at Faith

A team is currently working toward the hiring of a permanent **Director of Family Ministry** here at Faith. If you would like more information for yourself or for someone else who may be interested in applying for the position, please speak with Pastor Brett (or email him at [bshoemaker@faithpresby.org](mailto:bshoemaker@faithpresby.org)). He'll be glad to pass along the position description and information about how to apply. Thank you for your prayers for this team as they seek God's guidance.



## Life Groups @ Faith

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. Not a part of a Life Group? We'd love to tell you more. Contact Pastor Jeff Chapman at [jchapman@faithpresby.org](mailto:jchapman@faithpresby.org) or (916)



# Fall Mission and Service Opportunities in Paradise, CA

## with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & SOULutions Ministries



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

This November marks the 7th anniversary of the Camp Fire, which still ranks as the deadliest and most destructive fire on record in California. Our presbytery, the North Central California Presbytery, in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and SOULutions Ministries, is offering two opportunities this November

to go to Paradise and to serve those who continue to rebuild their lives and their community there, all these years after the fire.

Participants will stay at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Oroville, which is a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Host Site. (Visit their website for more: <https://trinityoroville.com/>.) There are also three RV hook-ups available for water and power but no waste disposal.

Please note that trip participants must be at least 18 years old.

Here is an overview of the two opportunities:

### **November 7-11, 2025 — Anniversary Trip**

“Join us Friday evening for dinner with speakers. Saturday we will engage in community events to remember the fire. Projects will include planting, building, painting and bringing hope out of chaos.”

*Cost is \$412.50 per person.*

### **November 14-16, 2025**

“Join us Friday night for dinner as survivors [of the Camp Fire] share their stories. Saturday we will be the waitstaff at the amazing Tiny Pine Foundation Monte Carlo event. We will set up, be sous-chefs, and serve guests. We will help build Tiny Homes for families.”

*Cost is \$221.50 per person.*

To register for either trip, or to request more information, please contact Nancy Disher, Project Manager of SOULutions Ministries, at (916) 792-7725 or [njdisher@garlic.com](mailto:njdisher@garlic.com). These trips tend to fill up fast, so if interested, please don't delay in RSVPing, especially if you would like to use one of the RV hook-ups.

If you are available, please consider taking part in this effort to shine the light of Christ by coming alongside the people of Paradise and lending a hand as they continue to rebuild and to heal. Please see the

### **Part-time Job Opportunity with Our Presbytery**

The North Central California Presbytery has a part-time (five hours per week) position available for a Hunger Action Advocate (HAA). HAAs serve presbyteries as educators, motivators, and facilitators of hunger action. They assist congregations and other groups to become engaged with issues of direct hunger relief, hunger-related development assistance, public policy advocacy, and education and interpretation about hunger and lifestyle issues, including environmental justice.

The position description is posted on the bulletin board outside of Room 2. A link to the document will also be included in tomorrow's "This Week @ Faith" email. To apply, send your resume and cover letter to [news@nccpresby.org](mailto:news@nccpresby.org). The deadline to apply is September 30.

# Serving on Sunday at Faith

	Serving Today (9/14)		Serving Next Sunday (9/21)	
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Miriam Gilbert	Madison Stanford	Grace Chand	Jack Van Duyn
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	Mike & Karena Van Duyn	Ken Finch Tanis Toland	John & Stephanie Homen	Cathy Coupal Bonnie Schrader
<b>Communion Servers</b>	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Greeters</b>	Cathy Healow Marianne Jenkins	Jarvis Arellano	Bill Edgar & Linda Olsen-Edgar	Jim Tracy
<b>Lock-up</b>	N.A.	Bob Bagby	N.A.	Jon Coupal
<b>Media Center Techs</b>	Dave Anders Paul Kinney	Rick Hom	David Nash Anthony Shelton	Jon Coupal
<b>Pew Crew</b>	<i>Serving 9/15—9/18</i>	Karena Van Duyn	<i>Serving 9/22—9/25</i>	Michele Yarbrough
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Laura Anderson Randy Smith	Renee Larsen Ileana Maestas	Sherry Beams Rich Hendricks	Chelle Ellis Alice Parente
<b>Teller Escorts</b>	Jennifer Anders	Jarvis Arellano	Bob DeYoung	Jarvis Arellano
<b>Tellers</b>	N.A.	Erwina Bush Jim Tracy	N.A.	Jarvis Arellano Kitty Tatso
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & Marlys Emery	Renee Larsen	Walter & Audrey Newport	Sylvia Warner
<b>Worship Assistants</b>	David Nash	Lucy DaCastello	Walter Newport	Bruce Kern

**Faith Worship Band:** Eunice Bancu, Michaela Bannerman, Shane Bannerman, Zuri Catalán-Ramírez, Esther Chapman, Andrew Chen, Kathy Keller, Sue Kim, Cindi Kinney, Paul Kinney, Carolyn Kubish, Paul Philleo, Zach Roberts, Mark Tootle, Makayla Van Duyn, Vickie Weaver-Owens and Jill Whitney.

**Faith Brass Ensemble:** José Hermocillo, Tom McDuffie, Fred Noteware, Dan Pehrson, 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, Dane Huntingdale, 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 and Charlotte Van Wagner.

## Faith Staff Members ~ Contact Us

Laura Anderson ~ Office Manager  
 Eunice Bancu ~ Accompanist  
 Madelyn Chand ~ Interim Co-Director of Family Ministry  
 Jeff Chapman ~ Pastor/Head of Staff  
 Marlys Emery ~ Financial Assistant  
 Kimberly MacArthur ~ Interim Director of Congregational Care  
 Brett Shoemaker ~ Associate Pastor  
 Lindsay Stanford ~ Interim Co-Director of Family Ministry  
 Mark Tootle ~ Director of Music Ministry

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# This Week @ Faith: September 14–20

## SUNDAY

- **Worship—9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)**
- Adult Sunday School—10:15 a.m. (Grace Rm)
- Our Savior's Anglican Church—11 a.m. (Link Hall)
- Family Ministry Search Team—12:15 p.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Deacons Meeting—12:30 p.m. (Rm 2)
- Fellowship Team Meeting—12:30 p.m. (Grace Rm)
- Recital (Outside Group)—2 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- Immanuel Indonesian Church—4 p.m. (Rm 2, Grace Rm)
- Youth Group—7 p.m. (Youth Rm, Link Hall)
- AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

## MONDAY

- Faith Staff Meeting—9 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- BSF Leaders Meeting—9 a.m. (Link Hall, Rms 2, 4, 5, 7)
- Faith Crafters—1 p.m. (Rm 2)
- Men's Life Group—1:30 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- Discipleship Group—7 p.m. (Grace Rm)
- 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—4 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- 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)
- Finance Team Meeting—7 p.m. (Fireside 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)
- Life Group—9:30 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Life Group—10:30 a.m. (Grace Rm)
- Choir Rehearsal—7 p.m. (Choir Rm, Sanctuary)
- AA Meeting—8 p.m. (Rm 2)

## FRIDAY

- No Scheduled Events

## SATURDAY

- Tai Chi—8:30 a.m. (Courtyard)

## Calendar at a Glance, 2025-26

### Upcoming dates of note in our life at Faith

September 27-28	Team World Vision/ Urban Cow
September 28	Harvest Dinner & Auction
October 5	Stewardship Commitment Sunday & Ministry Fair
October 24	Presby Pumpkin Patch
November 12	Operation Christmas Child
November 15	Rise Against Hunger
November 30	First Sunday of Advent
December 3	Advent Midweek Worship
December 10	Candlelight Service of Remembrance
December 12	Family Ministry "Christmas Time" Gathering
December 17	Service of Lessons & Carols
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.
January 11	"Evening of Reflection" Mini -Retreat
January 25	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 25	Lenten Midweek Worship (Also 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25)
April 2	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 3	Good Friday Worship
April 5	Easter
April 10-12	Women's Retreat
May 1-3	Men & Boys' Retreat
May 24	Pentecost; PACT BBQ
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

*The office is open Monday to Thursday,  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
and Friday by appointment.*

**Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento**  
**“The Next Step”**

*A Resource for Life Groups and/or Personal Application*

September 14, 2025

**Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

# **Message Notes**

*Judgment to Joy*

## 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 the passage together again. Consider reading the whole chapter to see how the theme is carried all the way through Chapter 15. What catches your attention that you didn't notice before?
2. What types of people are present with Jesus in verses 1 and 2? What is the attitude of each of these groups as Jesus begins to tell these stories?
3. In your own short or long journey of pursuing a life with Jesus, do you identify more with the Pharisees and teachers or with the sinners and tax collectors? How does this affect the way you hear these stories of Jesus?
4. Read Ezekiel 34, verses 6, 11 and 16. In light of these verses, how does Jesus reflect his Father's heart in the Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin? How do these words from Ezekiel confirm or challenge your view of God in the Old Testament?
5. Someone might say that it seems the shepherd loved the one lost sheep more than the others (or that the woman thought the lost coin was worth more than the others). Considering what you know of God's character, how would you respond to this? What other scripture passages come to mind that can help shape your answer?
6. Can you remember a time when seeing someone come to know the Lord brought you great joy?
7. For you as a follower of Jesus (or for us as a church), what does each of the three stages of these parables—Seeking, Finding, and Throwing a Party—look like in real life?
8. To close, read the quote below by N. T. Wright. How would you answer his question?  
*"What might today's Christians do that would make people ask, 'Why are you doing something like that?', and give us the chance to tell stories about finding something that was lost?"* (Tom Wright, *Luke for Everyone*, 185).



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

Have you ever lost something valuable to you and then found it again?

How did you feel when you found it?

How do you think God feels when someone really learns

# 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:	Genesis 11 / Psalm 39
Tuesday:	Genesis 12 / Psalm 40
Wednesday:	Genesis 13 / Psalm 41
Thursday:	Genesis 14 / Psalm 42
Friday:	Genesis 15 / Psalm 43
Saturday:	Genesis 16 / Psalm 44
Sunday:	Philemon / Psalm 45

## To help you SPEAK with God...

### ♦Pray for Our Faith Family, Especially...

Debra Grabowski ~ Jim & Valerie Gray ~ Jim Guida; Steven ~ Robert Gyimah; Sam, Jayden ~ Mike & Rhonda Hankey

### ♦Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

*For Healing & Strength:* Carol Keller, Demetrius Moore, Bob Johnson, Barbara LaPlaca, Clara Murrels, Kathy Keller, Kristen Bye, Barbara Tracy, Cheryl Chan, Bob DeYoung, Georgina Borton, Joe de Illy, Beverly Sommerdorf, John Ellis, Sandy Smoley, Lyndon Thomson, Jackie Casteig, Nick LaPlaca, Barbara Hull.

*Prayers of Comfort:* For Sherryl Cole upon the recent death of her father. For Sheila Sanders at the recent passing of her daughter, Sarah.

### ♦Church Leadership:

Marlys Emery	Financial Assistant
Vicky Chastain	Elder, Family Ministry
Randy Smith	Deacon, Parish 3

### ♦Other Opportunities for Prayer

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Alice Parente at [vsas77@earthlink.net](mailto: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

