



~ Walking in Faith ~ week by week ~

November 19, 2021
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~ CLOSE TO HOME ~

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. In our pandemic time, how much more we know this now – everything, it seems, hit close to home as we have learned to grapple with changes in how we gather, where we go, how to protect the vulnerable ones we love. Yet our faith also provides support and lessons as we have gone, and continue to go through, this changed time.

This Advent and Christmas season (which begins in a week on Sunday, November 28th), we will journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our theme of “Close to Home” acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see the opportunities to celebrate the season – from advent worship on Sunday mornings, to shopping for children with a partner agency, to Christmas caroling to our shut-ins and the offering of a Blue Christmas service for those who need a bit of space from jolly merry-making, and of course, a candlelit Christmas Eve service. I hope that each of you finds the way that best matches what you need this holiday season – that you will experience God’s spirit “close to home.”

Blessings and light, Renée

~ LET'S FILL THE THANKSGIVING WAGON! ~



It's that time of year to share with others!

During the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, take a yellow bag and fill it up for those less fortunate. Thank you for your donations!



Adult Sunday School Class starts

November 28 - The first Sunday of Advent

Conference Room - 9:15 am

Johnnie Travis will be the instructor.

Please sign in the narthex or call the office if you are planning to attend.

Advent /Christmas 2021

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| <i>Sunday, November 28</i> | - 1st Sunday of Advent |
| | - Adult Sunday School - 9:15 am |
| <i>Sunday, December 05</i> | - Caroling after church |
| <i>Sunday, December 12</i> | - Choir Cantata in worship |
| <i>Saturday, December 18</i> | - Blue Christmas - 3:00 pm |
| <i>Sunday, December 19</i> | - Communion - Children's Pageant Video |
| <i>Friday, December 24</i> | - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm |
| <i>Sunday, December 26</i> | - Caroling Service |
| | - Guest Speaker, Elder Kay Travis |

~ Who's New at Faith ~



How did **Johnnie and Kay Travis** come to Sierra Vista?

We (Kay is writing) have been married for just over 29 years. We have a blended family of children and grandchildren.

We lived in South Arkansas in the Delta region. Not quite in Louisiana, but close enough that alligators busily look for the swamps from which they came. It's the home of the longest Bayou in the world, Bartholomew, look it up for interesting facts.

We are both Certified Ruling Elders. Beginning in 2006, Johnnie served several years as Commissioned Ruling Elder for Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Strong, AR. After that he served as pulpit supply for Arkansas Presbytery and Pines Presbytery. Kay began active as Commissioned Ruling Elder in 2007. Kay served 3 churches (First Presbyterian Church, Fordyce; Lake Village Presbyterian Church and Dermott Presbyterian Church) on a long term basis and acted as pulpit supply in other churches, all within Pines Presbytery. Johnnie has served on the board at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center and Kay has been active with the Committee on Ministry. Both of us retired from the pulpit just before the Covid pandemic.

In secular life, Johnnie is retired from Union Pacific Railroad, he is an electrician, a jack of all trades and loves to work with his hands and mind, fiddle with and repair things. He has an uncanny ability to identify a problem and how to fix it quickly. Kay is retired from Arkansas State Police as a Senior Investigator in the field of child abuse. She loves to play the piano (not well anymore) and sing. She also excels at finding things wrong with the cars or electrical items for Johnnie to fix (just ask him).

We are proud to identify ourselves as members of Faith Presbyterian Church and hope to be of service to our Faith Church family as well as being occasional pulpit supply in other churches in Presbytery de Cristo.



Charles Wilkes is a retired Test Engineer from Lockheed Aircraft. After retirement he started and operated a construction company.

Charles moved to Sierra Vista in the summer of 2018 and tries to live a simple basic Christian lifestyle in retirement. He is a native Georgian and has two daughters, one in Georgia and one in Armenia.



Toys for Child & Family Resources
Bring unwrapped gifts for under the tree
Ages Infant to 18 years
November 28 thru December 15



~ God's word is on the move! ~

The Mission and Stewardship team just purchase 10 new audio bibles! Two Spanish and 3 English Audio Bibles are on their way to the Haven and 5 English Audio Bibles to Via Elegante.

A few years ago, the Nursing Home ministry team ordered 40 Audio Bibles which were dispersed among the area nursing homes. They were such a big success we had a request for additional ones.

Thank you for the generous donation from the Faith Congregation who support this evangelism.



Condolences to Rev. Andy McComb and his wife for the death of their son, Philip. Rev. McComb was Faith's gap interim pastor for a few months in 2019. Cards may be sent to:

Rev. & Mrs. Andrew McComb
11740 E. Sneller Vista Drive
Tucson, AZ 85749

Sierra Vista Sings presents their Holiday Concerts:



"Sing for Joy" directed by Debi Godwin

Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11

Sierra Vista United Methodist Church

7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30)

Tickets on sale now for \$5.00 each

Call Deb Koltveit 520-803-0915



Advent Devotionals

"And the Word was God"

are available for you in the Narthex

starting Sunday, November 21.

Be inspired by the daily devotionals during Advent.

