



Faith Presbyterian Church
2053 East Choctaw Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
Phone: 520-378-9400

Email: faithsecsv@gmail.com

Website: www.faithpresb.org

~ Devine December ~

Pastor: Rev. Brian R. Louis
Office Manager: Judy Mayhew
Office Hours: 9 am - 2 pm Mon-Fri
Worship Service: 10:30 am



**Faith is so thankful that you are worshipping
with us every Sunday at 10:30 am!**

**Join your Faith Family during the
Advent Season!**



~ WALKING IN FAITH ~
DECEMBER
2023 NEWSLETTER
Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, Arizona



Faith Presbyterian's Mission Statement

We are Faith Presbyterian, and we seek to do God's work through Christian worship, education, fellowship, and outreach ministry as we serve an awesome God....



Enjoy the Advent season at Faith!

PASTOR'S POST

Dear Members and Friends of Faith,

I write this the day after our luncheon fellowship gathering at Sierra Vista United Korean Presbyterian Church. There is so much to be thankful for today, including that amazing gathering yesterday. I am so proud of the great turnout we had from Faith! I did feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ in the room with all of us gathered there. I look forward to reciprocating with our neighbors in the spring and continuing to be a congregation that reaches out and builds friendships with other churches and houses of worship in the community.

Faith will host a Blue Christmas service on Dec. 21 at 4:30 p.m. The Blue Christmas service is a special time of gathering with each other for people who are grieving this Christmas season. While Christmas is a time of joy for many, there are many who are dealing with sadness over the loss of a loved one, depression, or other reasons for sadness, where this sacred holiday carries grief. I hope you will all join us for this special service of healing and hope.

On Dec. 3 we will welcome some new members to the congregation as well.

December is a special time of music at Faith, and there will be plenty of it this month! I love that we hold a lot of concerts, and I would love to hold many more here as well! Hosting concerts, offering musicians a place to practice, and then perform, is something special we can do here at Faith to set us apart and something to be known for in the community. Music Lives Here. Friendship Grows Here. Faith Grows Here. Love Grows Here. We truly do have a special congregation, and all those little taglines are true, and I want them to be part of our identity as a congregation. All those things are all at the core of who we are and what we can be known for in the Sierra Vista area.

I am excited about Advent and Christmas here at Faith and I look forward to the new year with a fine roster of spiritual leaders who were just elected at the congregational meeting. I am curious and excited to see where the Lord will take us in 2024!

I will close with a special note of thanks to you all. I am writing this on Nov. 20 and that is the first anniversary of my ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I am grateful to God to have called me to ministry, and to have been called to Faith. Thank you for calling me!

Peace,
Brian

FAITH STEPPING STONES



~ Happy December Birthday ~

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Grace Davidson | 01 |
| Lois Bloom | 06 |
| Heather Mayhew | 10 |
| Joe Perry | 14 |
| Clara Beth Smith | 16 |
| Kathy Jones | 18 |
| Kathy Richard | 22 |
| Terry Whaley | 24 |
| George Wheat | 27 |
| Phyllis Pfeifer | 29 |
| Nancy Whaley | 30 |



| | |
|----------------------|----|
| John & Pat Wettack | 22 |
| Clark & Lois Bloom | 26 |
| Terry & Nancy Whaley | 27 |
| Ron & Judy Mayhew | 30 |



Share your smiles and joy by going caroling to Faith's homebound! Meet in the office at 12:15 pm on Sunday, December 3. Santa hats and bells are available!



Thank you to all who shared their love, coins, and paper money for the children's charity! **Faith raised \$470 in the jug!**

Ruling Elders for 2023:

Heather Carter, Christian Ed Chair
 Sonny Coble, Personnel Chair
 Judy Pike, Finance
 Sharon Townsend, Christian Ed
 Johnnie Travis, Mission & Stewardship Chair
 Rhonda Unicume, Mission & Stewardship
 Ruth Van Otten, Worship & Music Chair
 George Wheat, Building & Grounds Chair
 Charles Wilkes, Finance Chair
 Fred Whitley, Clerk of Session

Deacons for 2023:

Diane Derr - Meals
 Patrick Jones - Food Bank
 Marti Louzy - Peach's Pantry
 Carolyn Malik - Moderator
 Tom Mathias
 Joann Mitchell
 Kay McCleary - Birthday cards
 Dustin Paige
 Sharon Raymond - Secretary - Greeting cards

~ December 2023 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3  Children's Christmas Pageant  CAROLING | 4 | 5 Men's Lunch 11:30 <i>Olive Garden</i> | 6 Advent Prophetic Brown Bag Lunch Study 12:00 Conf Rm Choir 6:00 pm | 7 Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am <i>My Place</i> Tone Chimes 6:45 pm Sky Island 7:30 pm | 8 Cochise Col- lege Jazz and Orchestra 7:00 pm | 9 Nuevo Mundo and Cochise College Choirs 7:00 pm |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Men's Lunch 11:30 - <i>Olive Garden</i> Finance 2:30 pm Music & Worship 6:00 pm | 13 Advent Prophetic Brown Bag Lunch Study 12:00 Conf Rm Choir 6:00 pm | 14 Ladies Lunch 12:30 pm <i>Chili's</i> Tone Chimes 6:45 pm Sky Island 7:30 pm | 15 | 16 Sky Island Chamber Choir Concert 6:30 pm |
| 17  Christmas Cantata | 18 | 19 Men's Lunch 11:30 - <i>Olive Garden</i> Ladies Lunch 12:30 Fiddlers Green Deacons 3:00 pm Session 6:00 pm | 20 Advent Prophetic Brown Bag Lunch Study 12:00 Conf Rm Choir 6:00 pm | 21  4:30 pm Tone Chimes 6:45 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Worship 10:30 am - Lunch after  Christmas Eve Service 12:15 pm | 25  Merry Christmas | 26 | 27 Game Day 2:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm | 28 Tone Chimes 6:45 pm | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY



Game Day, December 27 at 2:00 pm Stevenson Hall.

Come and have fun in the afternoon with your Faith buddies!



~~ MEN'S LUNCH ~~

All men are invited to join the Men's Lunch at 11:30 am each Tuesday in December at Olive Garden. Enjoy the fellowship!



Please continue to bring your donations for the Food Bank. Non-perishables are needed.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
Thursday, December 7
My Place at 8:30 am
 1081 E. Fry Blvd.



"Donut Day" at Life Care Center!

Please contact Pam Winters if you would like to participate in any nursing home ministry functions.

pwin308@yahoo.com



"BACKPACK PROGRAM"

By Pam Winters



Pastor Brian blessing the backpacks!

Thank you congregation for your generous support of the Backpack Program. We filled 72 this year!

Thank you to all who volunteered to organize items and those who packed the bags! Everyone is an important part! As Sandy Brown said, "One person can make a difference!"



Faith made the Sierra Vista Herald!



The Blue Christmas service will be on Thursday, December 21 at 4:30 pm at Faith Presbyterian. The purpose of this service is

Christmas can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or are going through a difficult time. Our Stephen Ministry Congregations recognize that and invite you to attend this very special service for those whose hearts are heavy this Christmas season.





Ring the Salvation Army Bell!

If you would like to help the “Red Kettle Campaign” for Christmas, please go to the website below and sign up.

<https://sierravista.salvationarmy.org/>

Click the heart on left hand side of the page and all of the volunteer opportunities will be right there, with this years Red Kettle Campaign bell ringing right there at the top—or you can call the Kettle Coordinator, Eva McElroy (520) 459-8411.

**Toys are being accepted for
“Child and Family Resources”
from December 3 through December 14**

**Baby toys from newborn to age 5 are very
much in need!**

**Diapers size 2 and 3 plus wipes are
requested.**

**Also, remember the older children and
teenagers.**

Thank you for helping this organization!

**If you would like to give a monetary donation, makes checks
payable to: “Healthy Families of Cochise County”**



**NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

There will be NO children’s Sunday School on:
December 17, 24 & 31.

It is not too late to join the adult “Prophetic
Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study” on
Wednesday, December 6, 13, and 20 at
noon in the conference room.

Pastor Brian is leading the group.



Ladies lunch at Mtn. View Golf Course, “Fiddler’s Green”

Tuesday, December 19 at 12:30 pm

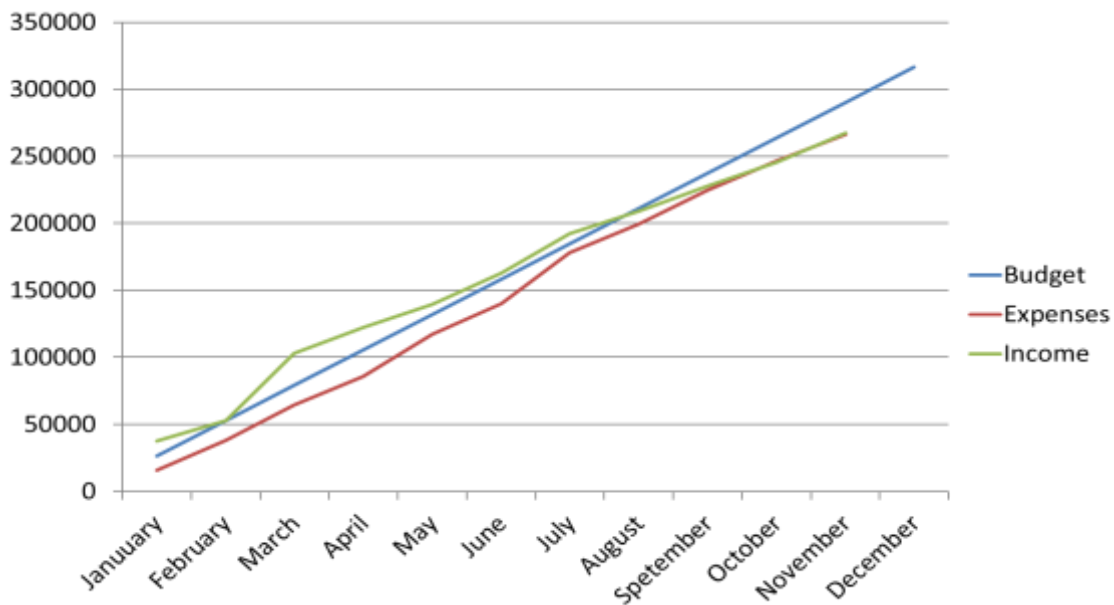
*Come and enjoy fellowship with
your Faith gals!*

Buffalo Soldier to
Wilcox light - turn
left at sign to Golf
Course

Treasurer's Update

By Gene Raymond
Faith Treasurer

END OF YEAR STATUS. We are now in the "home stretch" for the Church Fiscal Year. I thought it would be a good idea to let the congregation know how we are doing as we near the end. The chart below shows our income and expenses with respect to this year's estimated budget through mid-November. The blue line is the budget, the red line is expenses (of course) and the green is income. As you can see, we are below the budget line for both income and expenditure, this is actually pretty common for us, at least during the 23+ years I have been a member of Faith. What is important is that due to careful stewardship by the Session and your generous giving our income has kept pace with our expenses. So, keep up the good work! As we begin the season of the Advent of the one who is the very Incarnation of sacrificial giving it would be a good time if you *are* a little behind in your giving for you to catch up or even "go the extra mile."



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN STATUS. Thank you to everyone who renewed or increased their pledge to support Faith's ministries for next year. As of November 20th, we received total pledges (including per capita and advanced giving) of \$ 175,754. This is about 56% of what we need for next year's ministries. So please continue to prayerfully consider your pledge for next year. Please also consider paying the Per Capita as a separate payment (this year the per capita is \$42 for each individual of your family who is a member of Faith). The Per Capita funds the denomination's work (e.g., General Assembly, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Presbyterian Mission Agency), the Synod's, and the Presbytery's (such as *Frontera de Cristo*, Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship, Montlure Camp, Presbyterian Campus Ministry, and Tucson Borderlands Young Adult Volunteers). If you have already turned in your pledge card without the Per Capita that's OK; just donate the correct amount when you actually pay your Per Capita pledge. It will make our regular budget go farther!

