



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

Email: faithsecsv@gmail.com

Website: www.faithpresb.org

~ Delightful December ~

Interim Pastor: Monica Russell, CRE
Office Manager: Judy Mayhew
Office Hours: 9 am - 2 pm Mon-Fri
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:30 am



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

**Join your Faith Family in December for
worship, messages from the Bible,
and fellowship.**

~ WALKING IN FAITH ~

DECEMBER

2025 NEWSLETTER

Faith Presbyterian Church

Sierra Vista, Arizona



"Love Grows Here"

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....



*A thrill of
hope,
the weary
world rejoices*



PASTOR'S POST

Dear Faith Family and Friends,

As the four weeks of Advent usher in a new Christian year, we begin by not only celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ but also by looking ahead to His promised second coming. Advent is our season of preparation—a time when many of us juggle community events, social gatherings, gift buying and wrapping, and travel. It is a joyful time for many, yet we also remember that this season can be difficult for others. It is not always the most wonderful time of year for everyone.

Let us be mindful of those who are separated from loved ones by distance or circumstances, those who grieve the loss of friends or family members, those struggling under financial strain, and those walking through valleys of loneliness or depression. May we be bearers of Christ's light wherever darkness lingers. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has made His light shine in our hearts. As we marvel at the gifts beneath our Christmas trees, let us remember the greatest gift of all: God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

Janis approaches her role as Music Director with deep dedication, and I am certain the musical offerings throughout Advent will be a blessing to your soul. Be sure to join us on December 14 as the Faith Choir, the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church choir, and guest musicians share the Christmas story through the cantata, "This Is Christmas." This beautiful work celebrates the heart of Christmas—Jesus our King. I pray that each of you finds time for reflection on the wondrous birth of our Lord and Savior.

I also pray that you care for yourselves—spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Each week, as we light another candle on the Advent wreath, we are reminded that we are still on the journey. There is work yet to be done, and I am grateful to see Faith moving forward with purpose and hope. Based on the survey input, we plan to get some of the activities started in January. May the blessing of God's gift of His Son rejuvenate us as we begin this new church year. And may we walk confidently, knowing that Immanuel—God with us—goes with us always.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Monica



FAITH STEPPING STONES



~ Happy December Birthday ~

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



~ Happy December Anniversary ~

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



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 2025

November 02	76
November 09	80
November 16	65
November 23	69
November 30	81

Average weekly attendance

74.2

New address :

Dave Rockwell

6433 W. Turquoise Avenue

Glendale, AZ 85302

Let's recognize the Deacons for the year 2025 as they have been very busy and have done a great job. They are:

Kathy Crawford	Marne Gulde
Marti Louzy	Tom Mathias
Heather Mayhew	Randy Mitchell
Charlotte Osborne	Barb Schratz
Bob Schratz	George Van Otten
Ruth Van Otten	



The Deacons quietly take care of fellowship after worship on Sunday and when no one signs up to bring refreshments, the Deacons handle it. They started an "Amazing Graze" potluck once a month. Refreshments after memorial services are the responsibility of the Deacons. They make time to talk with folks or call them when needed. They are now helping serve communion once a month. The birthday, anniversary, get well, thinking of you and sympathy cards are sent by a Deacon.

Blessings to all the Deacons in 2025 and in the past!

~ submitted by Heather Mayhew

~ December 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 4:30 pm PNC	2 Men's Lunch 11:30 Olive Garden	3 7:00 pm Choir UMC	4 Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am "My Place" Grief Share 10:00 am Conf Rm	5 SV Sings at UMC 7:00 pm	6 SV Sings at UMC 2:00 pm
7	8 4:30 pm PNC	9 Men's Lunch 11:30 Olive Garden Finance 2:30 pm Worship/Music 6:00 pm	10 7:00 pm Choir	11	12	13 Memorial Service Gertrude Balentine 1:00 pm
14  * Cantata	15 4:30 pm PNC	16 Men's Lunch, 11:30 Olive Garden Deacons 3:00 pm Session 6:00 pm	17 Ladies Lunch 11:30 Texas Roadhouse 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Blue Christmas UMC	18	19	20
21  Communion Amazing Graze Congregational Mtg	22 4:30 pm PNC	23 Men's Lunch 11:30 Olive Garden	24  7:00 pm	25 	26	27
28	29 4:30 pm PNC	30 Men's Lunch 11:30 Olive Garden	31 			
* Dec 14 last day to bring toys!						

WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY



**NO
Game Day in
December**

Please remember those in need. Bring non-perishable food for the Food Bank. Place it in the wagon in the narthex.

~~ MEN'S LUNCH ~~

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

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Thurs, Dec. 4

My Place, 8:30 am
1081 E. Fry Blvd.



~ Ladies' Luncheon ~

Texas Roadhouse

Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 11:30 am

Men are welcome, too!



Please reserve your place at the table if you plan to attend. The reservation sheet is in the narthex.

Pictures from La Casita in November

There is NO UPDATE on when Faith will be receiving the next coffee shipment.



We hope it will be sometime soon, but do not have the final word from Café Justo.

The prices for your Café Justo beans are going to be increased, but we do not know how much.

Thank you for your understanding, support and patience.

"Halloween" at Life Care!!



If you are interested in helping with Donut Day on the 2nd Friday of each month, Halloween or any other special days, please call Margaret Jo at 520-236-9055.



Again, Life Care sends a resounding "THANK YOU" for all the candy donations for their "Trick or Treat" on Halloween program.



"DONUT DAY" at Life Care

November 14, 2025

Thank you Jerry, Danette, and Bob for bringing smiles to the Life Care residents!!

The Salvation Army, 180 E. Wilcox in Sierra Vista has a church service on Sunday morning at 10:00 am.

They are open each day at 9:00 for juice and a snack.

Free lunch is served Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

There is a Food Bank to get one box of food each 30 days.

They have an Angel Tree program for children up to 17 years. People must complete an application by December 8.





SAVE THE DATE!

Faith Presbyterian is going to the Gaslight Theater, Tucson, Arizona!
Don't miss this chance for some great fun and laughs.

"THE BELLE OF TOMBSTONE"

Sunday, 22 February 2026, 3:00 PM
66 seats have been reserved.



Faith is thankful for the youth!!



Who has brought meaning to your life? What are you thankful for?



Watch for another youth presentation on Sunday, December 14!

Faith is thankful for the choir, the music director and choir director!!



Are you gifted with the ability to play the piano or organ? Occasionally Faith needs a substitute. Contact Janis Wheat if you are interested.

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

Martha "Marty" Johnson passed away peacefully on October 26, 2025, in Bend, Oregon, just weeks after family gathered for a weekend celebration of her 100th birthday and remarkable life.



Born on September 28, 1925, Marty grew up in the small farming community of Gibson City, Illinois, where she was raised alongside her three sisters during the Great Depression. She later attended school in Chicago before heading west to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1948. There she built a career as a skilled legal secretary and met Richard Johnson, whom she married in 1952.

*Arizona became the place Marty called home and where she discovered her greatest passion—golf. She often credited the sport with keeping her young and vibrant well into her later years. Marty proudly played until the age of 96 and delighted in recounting tales of her two holes-in-one and besting her **husband's handicap**—even though he was the one who drew her into the sport. Her love for golf was matched only by her sharp wit and playful sense of humor, which remained with her throughout her life.*

Marty was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years. She will be dearly missed by her daughters, Lee Ann Johnson (Chris Gossard) and Anita Elledge (Karl), along with two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Gertrude (Gertie) Balentine, age 89, of Sierra Vista, AZ passed away on November 9, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband James Balentine. Gertie is survived by her three sons, Dave, Steven and Gary; daughters-in-law Sandy and Nancy; six grandchildren and great grandmother of four, and one brother, Ernst Zwink in Germany.

While raising children, Gertie took a position as a Teacher's Aide and studied Real Estate. She then entered the Real Estate business managing rental properties in the Sierra Vista area. Gertie was devoted to her family, enjoyed traveling and was a resident of Sierra Vista for over 58 years.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm at Faith.

*“Sierra Vista Sings” presents our Holiday
Concerts:*

Angels and Shepherds and Miracles

*Featuring Vocalise, the High Desert Singers,
and the **Note-ables**, providing traditional
and new holiday music*

*under the direction of **Debi Godwin***

*accompanied by **Dorothy Scheafer** and **Billie Hayes***

Friday, December 5, 2025, at 7 PM (doors open at 6:30pm)

with a matinee performance on

Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 2 PM (doors open at 1:30 PM)

Sierra Vista United Methodist Church
3225 St Andrews Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Tickets on sale now for \$10. Contact Deb Koltveit: text or call 520-895-9645. Tickets will also be available in limited quantities at the door!

Free will offering in support of



"Messiah" Choir



The Choir will perform under the direction of Reynoldo Romo, and be accompanied by Billie Hayes on the pipe organ.

The choir will perform the Advent and Christmas portion of "Messiah" and the "Hallelujah Chorus".

The performance will be Sunday, December 21, 2025

Place: St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church at 7 pm

For additional information, call Maryann Hockstad at 520-456-5555 or email her at maryann.h@cox.net.



Notice to our Faith Family....

Every Sunday there is a need for ushers and greeters!

Please feel free to sign up in the narthex for this special opportunity to share your smile and hand shake with others.

Instruction Manuals are in the narthex.



SAVE THE DATES!

*Rising Out of the Ashes:
A Celebration of New Beginnings*

**First Presbyterian
Church of Douglas**

1020 D Avenue, Douglas, AZ 85608

Rev. Peggy Christiansen & Rev. Joca Gallegos, pastors

970.980.0656

Open House: Saturday, December 6 ♦ 11am — 4pm
Dedication Service: Sunday, December 7 ♦ 10:30am



“Grief Share” is a 13-week Christ-centered program, developed by clergy and clinicians alike, to help participants navigate their grief.

Each of the 13 videos and workbook topics are independent of each other (they stand alone), which means you can join anytime in the 13-week process.

With holidays right around the corner, you may find yourself missing a class or two while out of town or accommodating guests. Regardless the reason, you can make up the sessions you missed in the following 13-week session.

The first Grief Share session starts at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 4.

*Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23
Faith and Korean Presbyterian Churches*



Thanks to the Korean Presbyterian Church for their hospitality!!!



~ 2026 ~ A NEW YEAR IS COMING!!

MARK YOUR NEW JANUARY CALENDAR!

- JANUARY 04 - EPIPHANY - STAR SUNDAY**
- JANUARY 05 - ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO OFFICE MANAGER**
- JANUARY 07 - CHOIR STARTS FOR NEW YEAR**
- JANUARY 11 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- JANUARY 18 - COMMUNION
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
AMAZING GRAZE - CATERED
ANNUAL MEETING**
- JANUARY 19 - OFFICE CLOSED - MLK DAY**

You have no Secrets!



Thanks to Cybercriminals and Data Brokers there is an unnerving amount of personal data available about you.

Do a internet search on your name and city and you will most likely get a bunch of information about yourself, your spouse, your kids, your house, your house's value and maybe even your income - and that's just the easy to access information.

Cybercriminals, mostly supported by Nation-states such as Russia, North Korea, China and Iran, do their best to gather as much information as possible and then weaponize it for monetary gain through emails, text messages, phone calls, voicemails, fraudulent websites and even old fashioned mail.

Recently, an example of this was an attack on many of the regional Presbyterian Churches and their members. An email was sent to the church's email list asking to please buy gift cards and provide the numbers to help some worthy cause. This is an old scam that pops up occasionally. It can also be done with text messages.

So how did they do this? Most likely they have lists of churches with lists of members and email addresses. This could be stolen information from hacked computers or databases or it could have been purchased from Data Brokers.

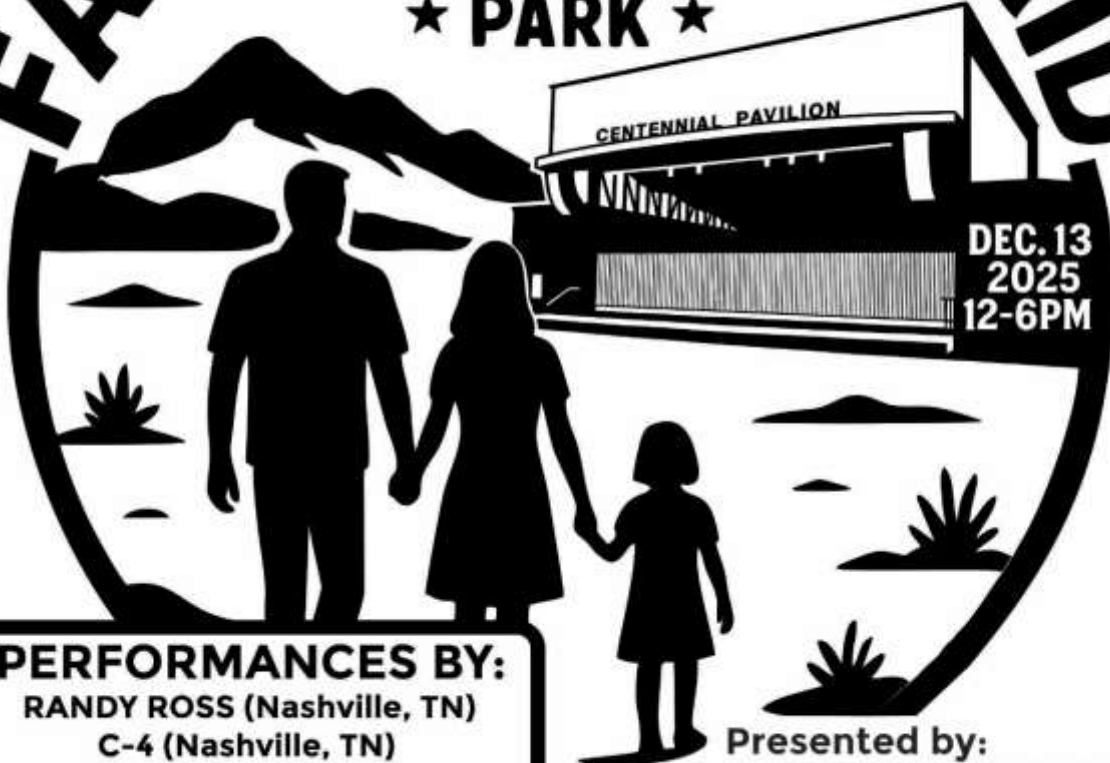
So what can you do to protect yourself?

- 1 - always verify any suspicious request in person
- 2 - never click on a link in an email you aren't sure is legitimate
- 3 - don't share your email address or cell phone number with any company or website you are unsure of or don't need to
- 4 - you can often tell whether an email is suspect from the sender email address. For example, the latest email had this address for the Pastor: pastoronlinehotmail2@gmail.com. Pastor Monica uses Faithpastorsv@gmail.com, just as Pastor Brian did. However, the email address can be masked, so call Pastor Monica or Judy to verify. Remember, Pastor Monica and/or Judy will NEVER ask for money or gift cards.
- 5 - opt out from Data Broker sites (more info at Jeff's blogspot)
- 6 - opt out from retailer website data sharing
- 7 - freeze your credit with the credit reporting agencies

More hints and addresses for Data Brokers are available on Jeff Durham's blog at <https://cybersecmusings.blogspot.com/>

FAMILY FOOD-AID

VETERANS
MEMORIAL
★ PARK ★



DEC. 13
2025
12-6PM

PERFORMANCES BY:

RANDY ROSS (Nashville, TN)
C-4 (Nashville, TN)
Sabatario (Sierra Vista, AZ)
Sierra Vista Sings and much more....

Presented by:

**PINK PANDA
PRODUCTIONS**

Benefitting ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Food Bank



Bill Falconer passed away quietly in his sleep on November 22. He was blessed to have a 95th birthday party recently with many relatives and friends.

Prayers for Nancy, his wife of 45 years. There will be no memorial service at Faith. A private service will be held at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

SINCERE
Condolences

~ CHILD AND FAMILY RESOURCES ~



Once again this year, Faith will collect toys and other items for **Child and Family Resources** from Nov. 30 through Dec. 14.

The need is greater than ever. This organization helps 48 families with 1 to 5 children in Cochise County.

Please bring donations for children ages 1 - 17 and place them under the Christmas tree. Gifts of toys, diapers, wipes, and simple family games are all appreciated.

Monetary donations are welcomed. Make checks

payable to: **“Child and Family Resources”** and in the memo line write **“Healthy Families of Cochise County.”**



“ ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY ”

November 2, 2025



*Remembering the
“Great Cloud of Witnesses”
at Faith!*





December 07	2nd Sunday of Advent Cantata at UMC
December 14	3rd Sunday of Advent Cantata at Faith with UMC Choir Youth Presentation
December 21	4th Sunday of Advent Communion Congregational Meeting Amazing Graze with catered lunch
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25	Merry Christmas!! Christ is Born!!
December 28	First Sunday of Christmas



Christmas Caroling



