



Faith Presbyterian Church  
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## ~ Awesome April ~

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 worshiping  
with us every Sunday at 10:30 am!**

**Join your Faith Family in April 2026 for  
worship and fellowship.**



# ~ WALKING IN FAITH ~

APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER

Faith Presbyterian Church

Sierra Vista, Arizona



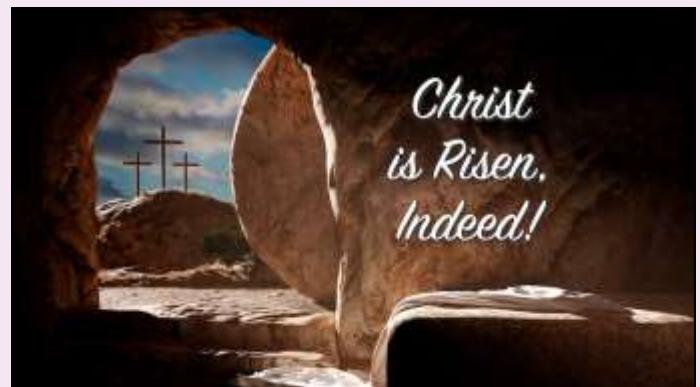
*"Love Grows Here"*

## 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....



*Join your Faith Family on Easter, April 5, and help decorate the cross with flowers!*



## PASTOR'S POST

We begin April with a solemn Maundy Thursday service on April 2, which combines the commemoration of the Last Supper with a "Service of Shadows" (Tenebrae.) The Tenebrae service will help us identify with the darkness and loss felt by Jesus' followers as they experienced his death. The service includes Scripture readings to also help us remember Christ's suffering on the way to the cross and His crucifixion and burial. After each scripture reading, a candle will be extinguished, symbolizing the deepening darkness of Christ's passion and crucifixion. The service, a time for quiet reflection, meditation on sin and Christ's sacrifice, will end in darkness and silence.

On April 5, we move to the mountaintop as we celebrate Easter with a service that is quite a contrast from Maundy Thursday. We will decorate the cross with flowers. The message and music will be uplifting. What a blessing for us to be together as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death that offers hope and new life for each of us. Hallelujah! Christ is risen!!

Rev Jim Wallace will be filling in on April 12 so that I can make my annual trip to Alexandria, VA, to spend time with friends. (God willing and the TSA lines allow me to get to the plane on time!) I will be back on April 19 and look forward to sharing the Faith family hospitality with the Korean Presbyterian Church family after worship - see you all then!

Easter is not over but has just begun with the season of Easter starting with the Day of the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday) and extending for fifty days. The Easter season covers eight Sundays, ending with Pentecost Sunday. More days to celebrate the great mystery of our faith—that Christ is risen from the dead. The Easter season of fifty days is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest. The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("fiftieth day") by Greek speaking Jews.

In addition to the agricultural calendar, the symbolic value of numbers plays a meaningful role in the duration of this festival. In ancient Israelite culture, the number seven implied wholeness or completion. There are seven days in a week, the time required for the completion of creation. A period of seven weeks, each consisting of seven days, suggests fullness "squared." The season of Easter is, therefore, a "week" of weeks. Seven weeks is roughly one seventh of a year (52 weeks); just as the seventh day of the week is holy to God, one seventh of the year is set apart as a holy season. Leviticus 25 designates every fiftieth year as a time of jubilee when captives are to be released and debts are to be forgiven. Easter, as a season of fifty days, represents the "great jubilee," in which we are released from captivity to death and the debt of our sin is forgiven by God.

The Easter season gives us more Sundays to continue to celebrate the risen Lord who walks with us and restores our lives again and again. Easter is a season to celebrate (and be reminded of) the fact that we are God's beloved! We will still have challenges and hurdles, but God's promises are ours to hold on to. I was struck by this quote: "Life is not a long day's journey into night; rather life is a long night's journey into day." The light of Christ goes before us and Christ walks beside us – that is something to celebrate!!

Easter blessing to all of you!

Pastor Monica

# FAITH STEPPING STONES



~ Happy April Birthday ~

Paul Lewis	01
Monica Russell	03
Doug Potter	05
Bridget Diekema	10
Gene Raymond	12
Dave Rockwell	13
Bianca Garcia	16
Joan Lopshire	16
Tonia Swarner	16
Hudson Rutgers	18
Jack Pitzel	19
Debi Godwin	28

~ Happy April Anniversary ~

Bob & Barb Schratz	22
Doug & Eleanor Templeman	27



## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 2026

March 1	55
March 8	86
March 15	81
March 22	97
March 29	115

**Average Sunday attendance**

**87**

*The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.*

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

From Matthew 5:13 and 14

“You are the salt of the earth.”

As salt of the earth, Christians are to live in such a way that we “flavor” or bless others through our good works.

“You are the light of the world.”

As the light of the world, believers are to share the gospel and strive to live like our Savior, thereby shining the light of Christ to those around us.

Our small actions are salt and light to a hurting world: Such as delivering meals to shut-ins and providing food for the food bank. Faith delivered 246 pounds of food to St Vincent de Paul in February and 52 pounds in March.

May the Deacons and our church at large continue our small acts of love and know that they are providing salt and light to our community and our world.

~ Submitted by Charlotte Osborne



# ~ APRIL 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 pm Choir	2 Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am "My Place" GriefShare 2 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship 7:00 pm	3  GOOD FRIDAY	4
5  Easter Sunday	6 Lenten Conversations 10:00 am Conf Rm 4:30 pm PNC	7 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Mens's Lunch Chili's	8 6:00 pm Choir	9 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm	10	11
12 Youth Sunday School 9:15 am  Bright Sunday	13 4:30 pm PNC	14 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Mens's Lunch Chili's Finance 2:30 pm Worship/Music 6:00 pm	15 Ladies Lunch 11:30 Café Ole 6:00 pm Choir	16 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm	17	18
19 Hosting Korean Presbyterian Church lunch	20 4:30 pm PNC	21 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Mens's Lunch Chili's Deacons 4:00 pm Session 6:00 pm	22 Game Day 2:00 pm SH 6:00 pm Choir	23 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm Blarney Canyon Band 6:00 pm	24 "Sierra Vista Sings" UMC 7:00 pm	25 "Sierra Vista Sings" UMC 2:00 pm
26	27	28 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Mens's Lunch Chili's	29 6:00 pm Choir	30 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm		

# WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY



**Game Day  
Wednesday,  
April 22, 2:00 pm**

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

## **FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

**Thurs, April 2**

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



## **~~ MEN'S LUNCH ~~**

All men are invited to join the Men's Lunch at 11:30 am each Tuesday in April at Chili's restaurant.



Picture submitted by Rodney Seago.  
Taken at R&R Restaurant in March.  
Join in for the fun and fellowship!!



Thank you, Rodney, for sweeping the concrete to make it nice for Sunday worship!!!

*~ Ladies' Luncheon ~*  
*Wednesday, April 15 at 11:30 am*  
*Café Ole*



*Please reserve your place at the table if you plan to attend.*

*The reservation sheet is in the narthex.*

*Picture from the Native Grill and Wings on March 18.*



Join the fun every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am with Diane, Jane, Kathy, Debbie, Bridget, Deb, Sharon, Jerry, Danette, and Gene for "Chair Yoga". It's great exercise and fellowship time!!



No sign up -  
just show up in the  
Conference Room!!  
See you Tuesday!!



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED CLEAN THE STORAGE ROOM ON MARCH 7!!**



← Does all of this have to fit back into the storage area???

All cleaned up!! →

Thank you Bob, Barb, Susan, Marne, Youth, Kathy, Monica, Debi, and Rodney!



**Finance Update**  
**BY ELDER GENE RAYMOND**  
**Finance Committee Chair**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE COULD USE SOME HELP.**



The Faith Finance Committee could use some support in maintaining the Financial Ministry of the Church. We are primarily looking for support for our Financial Secretary Barb Schratz. Barb is looking for some additional help in counting and recording the Sunday Offering. We need to have two people do the counting. We would like to have enough counters so you only have to do this once a month. This usually takes about a half hour after church.

If you are looking for a little more involvement in the Financial Ministry of Faith, the church bylaws recommend that we have an assistant Treasurer and assistant Financial Secretary. We have neither at this time. Acceptance of this position does not imply that you automatically have to take the Treasurer or Financial Secretary position permanently if

Barb or I leave the job, rather it is to have a backup who is familiar with church financial operations when needed.

Lastly, we have three members of the Financial Review Committee (aka the Audit Committee), and one rotates off every year, so a new member has to be elected each year. If your skills lie in that area, think about serving if asked by the Nominating Committee.

If you think you can help, contact me (Gene Raymond 520-455-5368), Barb Schratz, 602-541-5783 or call the church office 520-378-9400. Thank you!

Bill Brouwer, Christian Ed Co-Chair, will lead a brown bag series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes starting in May.

The class will be held on Wednesdays at 11:30 am in the Conference Room.

Sign up will begin on Sunday, April 12.

Please come, bring your lunch, and join us for some stimulating discussions.

**Brown  
Bag  
Bible  
Study**



**Youth Sunday School has Bible lessons and creative crafts!**



**Bring the youth to Sunday School on April 12 at 9:15 am.**

**Joanie will be there to greet you!**

**~ Bring the children to church for the Children's Sermon ~**



**Following the children's sermon, they can go to their own special service learning about Jesus and enjoying fellowship with each other in the Sunday School area.**

**Ben, John, Dominic, and Eleanor had a great time on March 22.**



**“Donut Day”  
LifeCare Assisted Living  
March 13, 2026**



**Thanks to Barb, Bob, and Margaret Jo  
for sharing donuts and smiles  
with the residents.**

**If you are interested in helping with  
Donut Day, please contact Margaret Jo:  
520-236-9055**

**Sharing time with others is definitely a  
rewarding experience!**

*~ Are you prepared for life changing events? ~*

*Attorney Paul Melo, from Williams Melo PLC, will join us for a  
question and answer session for our church members and  
friends to help us understand how to best be prepared for the  
multiple generational challenges  
that life brings.*



*Tuesday, May 5, 1:00 pm*

*Conference Room*

*Sign up and put questions in the  
envelope.*

**“The Blarney Canyon Band”  
will perform at Faith  
Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm  
Donations will be accepted for local charity.**



**~ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~**

**Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm  
Communion**

**Friday, April 3 - Good Friday  
Sanctuary open 10:00 - Noon**

**Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday, "He is Risen!"  
"He is Risen Indeed!"**

**Sunday, April 12 - Bright Sunday  
Rev. Jim Wallace, Guest Pastor**

**Sunday, April 19 - Hosting Korean Presbyterian  
Church for lunch after worship**

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**COFFEE HAS ARRIVED !!!**



All the problems with the delay in coffee are over and the fresh coffee was delivered on March 22.

The director of customer relations thanks us for our patience and support.

The new price of coffee will be \$16.00 per pound.

When purchasing, please place money in the box near the coffee or in the offering plate designating "coffee".



*"Sierra Vista Sings" presents our Spring Concerts:  
Celebrate!*

*Celebrating Our Love for Family and Friends, Love for  
God, and Love for Our Country!*

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

*under the direction of Debi Godwin*

*accompanied by Dorothy Scheafer and Billie Hayes*

**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7 PM (doors open at 6:30pm)**

**with a matinee performance on**

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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 520-803-0915.  
Tickets will also be available in limited quantities at the door!**

**Free Will Offering in support of**



*The cross below is a "Good Friday" message.*

*The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm , April 2, if you would like to come and sit and meditate during this Holy day.*



They shouted  
"Crucify him  
crucify him!"  
Pilate asked  
"Shall I crucify  
your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."  
Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;  
and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to The Place of the Skull

There they  
crucified him  
and with him  
two others,  
one on either  
side with Jesus  
between them.  
Pilate also had  
an inscription  
written and put  
on the cross.  
It read "Jesus  
of Nazareth, the  
King of the Jews.



## April 12 is Bright Sunday!!

Wear colorful clothes and bring quilts to decorate the sanctuary.



Drop off quilts at the office from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm April 6 - April 10. Have names on your quilts. Members of the Worship Committee will decorate on Saturday, April 11.



## "Palm Sunday"

March 29





## **Staying Wise and Safe: Understanding Scams and How to Avoid Them**

In today's fast-changing world, scams are becoming more common—and more convincing. While anyone can be targeted, older adults are often singled out because scammers assume they are more trusting or may be less familiar with new technology. As a church family, looking out for one another is part of our calling. By staying informed, we can better protect ourselves and those we love.

### **What Is a Scam?**

A scam is a dishonest scheme designed to steal money or personal information. Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust—a government official, a bank representative, a grandchild in trouble, or even a charity or church leader.

Their goal is simple: to create urgency, fear, or excitement so you act quickly without verifying the situation.

### **Common Scams to Watch For**

#### **1. Phone Scams (“Grandparent Scam”)**

You may receive a call from someone claiming to be a grandchild or relative in trouble, asking for money immediately. They may beg you not to tell anyone.

#### **2. Government Impersonation**

Scammers pretend to be from the IRS, Social Security, or Medicare, claiming you owe money or must “verify” your information.

#### **3. Email and Text Phishing**

Messages may look like they're from a bank, delivery service, shopping outlets, or even your church, asking you to click a link or call a number to verify or provide personal details.

#### **4. Charity Scams**

Especially after disasters or during holidays, scammers pose as charities to collect donations that never reach those in need.

#### **5. Tech Support Scams**

A pop-up or caller claims your computer has a virus and asks for remote access or payment to fix it.

### **Warning Signs**

Be cautious if someone:

- ◆ Urges you to act immediately
- ◆ Asks for payment in gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency
- ◆ Requests personal or financial information unexpectedly
- ◆ Tells you to keep the situation secret
- ◆ Contacts you out of the blue with alarming news

## **How to Protect Yourself**

### **Take Your Time**

God calls us to be wise and discerning. Don't let anyone rush you into making decisions.

### **Verify Before You Trust**

If someone claims to be a family member or organization, hang up and contact them directly using a known number.

### **Never Share Personal Information**

No legitimate organization will ask for sensitive information like Social Security numbers or bank details over the phone or email.

### **Use a Trusted Friend System**

If you're unsure, talk it over with a family member, friend, or church leader before taking action.

### **Don't Click Suspicious Links**

If you receive an unexpected message, avoid clicking links or downloading attachments.

### **Set Up Safeguards**

Consider call-blocking services, fraud alerts from your bank, and privacy settings on your devices.

### **A Word to Families and Caregivers**

Stay connected with older loved ones. Regular conversations about scams can make a big difference. Encourage openness so they feel comfortable sharing concerns without embarrassment.

### **What to Do If You Suspect a Scam**

- ◆ Stop communication immediately
- ◆ Do not send money or provide information
- ◆ Contact your bank if financial information was shared
- ◆ Report the scam to local authorities or consumer protection agencies
- ◆ Let someone you trust know what happened

### **A Community That Protects One Another**

Scripture reminds us to care for one another with wisdom and compassion. By staying alert and sharing knowledge, we can help prevent harm and support those who may be vulnerable.

If you ever feel uncertain about a situation, please reach out to a trusted member of our church community. You are not alone, and together we can stand strong against those who seek to deceive.



~ Submitted by Pastor Monica