



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

Email: faithsecsv@gmail.com

Website: www.faithpresb.org

~ **Marvelous May** ~

Pastor: Monica Russell
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 May 2026 for
worship and fellowship.**

~ WALKING IN FAITH ~

May 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....



*Please join your Faith Family
and celebrate Pentecost on
Sunday, May 24.*



PASTOR'S POST

Dear Faith Family and Friends,

Alleluia!! I am truly honored and humbled by your vote of support to allow me to continue to serve as the Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church. Maintaining my commitments in Tucson while also serving as your interim pastor was a bit of a challenge, but I felt that serving here for one year as an interim was better than no year at all. I started here in August and every day felt God's call more strongly until I relented and applied. More about that process on May 17 when we are planning an official "installation" during worship followed by a celebration with the regularly scheduled Amazing Graze. I am so happy to be here!!

Amazing is what this congregation is. Like many congregations, you have been through ups and downs and more ups and downs while also facing challenges in your own lives. That made me think of Sonny and Cher's "The Beat Goes On." And go on you did and still are. God has always been our "current thing" with Christ as "our newborn king!" While we do "sit in chairs and reminisce," I commend you for looking to the future because we know God has plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11): ... "plans to prosper *us* and not to harm *us*, plans to give *us* hope and a future". I rejoice that I get to march to that beat with all of you – through the ups and downs and the in between! "And the beat goes on; the beat goes on. Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain. La-de-da-de-de, la-de-da-de-da."

My schedule will continue to be sporadic in May as I tie up loose ends in Tucson, pack up my "stuff," and prepare to move. I will be busy unpacking boxes in my rental home in Sierra Vista by the end of May.

Meanwhile the beat goes on at Faith - Chair Yoga and Men's lunch on Tuesdays, Grief-Share on Thursdays, and the brown bag lunch/Bible Study starting May 6. There is interest in a Women's Bible Study, which we can start to explore soon. The Presbyterian Women's Bible study has been successful in the past, but there are other options for us to explore – stay tuned for more details. Linda Perkins-Murray, our trained Stephen Ministry leader, is eager to explore getting the Stephen Ministry program up and running. The Blarney Canyon Band kicked off the concert series, which is free to the community and also supports the community with a free will offering.

I had "next year" thoughts along the way but only made notes. While Interim Pastors are not forbidden from making change, big changes can be disruptive when a new pastor is on the horizon. But now – well, now I am the pastor and will be looking for ways to support all of you and this community. Never fear, I am not really in charge. The Session, your chosen leadership team, has the final say in major changes. So, talk to me and talk to your leaders and share your ideas.

This church was started on faith and has walked by faith. I look forward to walking with you on this faith journey. May we continue to love one another as Jesus has commanded us to, and may the Spirit inspire us to venture out in service.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!! Alleluia. Thank you again for giving me the privilege of serving as your Pastor.

Grace and peace to us all,

Pastor Monica



FAITH STEPPING STONES



~ Happy May Birthday ~

| | |
|------------------|----|
| James Diekema | 06 |
| Larry Heiserman | 06 |
| Barbara Schratz | 06 |
| Hunter Rutgers | 07 |
| Matt McHale | 10 |
| Lisa Tuttle | 12 |
| Ed Keene | 13 |
| Bryanna Townsend | 16 |
| Richard Carter | 19 |
| Rich Klucsarits | 20 |
| Cel Potter | 23 |
| Kathy Swackhamer | 23 |
| Patrick Jones | 25 |
| Brian Louis | 25 |
| J.T. Swackhamer | 26 |

~ Happy Anniversary ~

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Don & Sharon Townsend | 09 |
| Jeff & Tina Durham | 16 |



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

April 2026

| | |
|----------|-----|
| April 02 | 60 |
| April 05 | 137 |
| April 12 | 74 |
| April 19 | 78 |
| April 26 | 78 |

Average weekly attendance
85

*"I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me."*

Philippians 4:13

~ BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY ~

Bill Brouwer, Christian Ed Co-Chair, will lead a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes starting May 6.

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



The class will be held each Wednesday at 11:00 am in the conference room.



A sign up sheet is available as books will be ordered for the study.

If you have any other ideas for Christian Education, youth or adult, please feel free to share them.

~ MAY 2026 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Presbytery Meeting Tucson |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Men's Lunch Taco Giro 1:00 PM Conf Rm Are you prepared? | 6 11:00 am Conf Rm Brn Bag Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir | 7 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Youth Sunday School 9:15 am <i>"Mothers Day"</i> | 11 | 12 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Men's Lunch Taco Giro Finance 2:30 pm WorshipMusic 6pm | 13 11:00 am Conf Rm Brn Bag Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir | 14 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 <i>"Installation"</i> Communion <i>"Amazing Graze"</i> | 18 | 19 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Men's Lunch Taco Giro Deacons 4:00 pm Session 6:00 pm | 20 11:00 am Conf Rm Brn Bag Bible Study Ladies Lunch 11:30 Golden Dragon | 21 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm | 22 | 23 |
| 24  | 25  | 26 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Men's Lunch Taco Giro | 27 11:00 am Conf Rm Brn Bag Bible Study Game Day 2:00 pm SH | 28 GriefShare 2:00 pm Conf Rm Stewardship Conf. Phoenix | 29 Stewardship Conf. Phoenix | 30 Stewardship Conf. Phoenix |
| 31 | | | | | | |

WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY



**Game Day
Wednesday,
May 27, 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, May 7**

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 May at Taco Giro.



**Enjoy Fellowship
with your Faith Family!**

*You are invited to the
installation of Monica Russell
as Faith's permanent pastor
during worship May 17, 2026
followed by an
"Amazing Graze Celebration"
in Stevenson Hall!*

~ Ladies' Luncheon ~

Wednesday, May 20

Golden Dragon Restaurant

**LADIES
LUNCH**

**LADIES
LUNCH**



Pictures taken from Café Ole in April!

Ladies, come and enjoy the fellowship and good food!



Join the fun every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am. Kathy Crawford will lead "chair yoga." It's great exercise and fellowship time!!



FAITH HAS FRESH COFFEE FROM CAFÉ JUSTO!



The new price for coffee is \$16.00 per pound.

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

Let's try to help the coffee growers in Mexico by purchasing a pound of coffee.





Thank you to the Deacons (Kathy, Barb, Bob, Beth, Randy, Marne, Heather, Dori, Charlotte) for all your hard work and making the lunch for the Korean Presbyterian Church so special! It was a great success!!! Deacons not in the picture : Holly, George, Ruth

- The church collected and donated 40 pounds of food to the food bank in April. For those in need of delivered meals, please contact the church office.*

Builder" by Will Allen Dromgoole as engraved on the [Vilas Bridge](#).

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man", said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide, —
Why build you this bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come", he said,
"There followeth after me to-day
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for *him*."

True satisfaction and peace
of mind come from a life of
Christian service.

~ submitted George Van Otten

Youth Sunday School has Bible lessons and creative crafts!



**Bring the youth to Sunday School on May 10 at 9:15 am.
It will be Joanie's last day to teach Sunday School.**

**Bring the children to worship for the Children's Sermon
followed by Children's Church.**



LifeCare Assisted Living

April 20, 2026



Pictures of Faith members and others at the National Volunteers Day lunch at Life Care.



Thank you Danette, Jerry, Heather, Margaret Jo, Barb and Bob for serving God as a volunteer. You are a blessing to Faith and Life Care!

~ Are you prepared for life changing events? ~



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

Tuesday, May 5, 1:00 pm

Stevenson Hall

*Sign up and put questions
in the envelope.*



TREASURER'S UPDATE

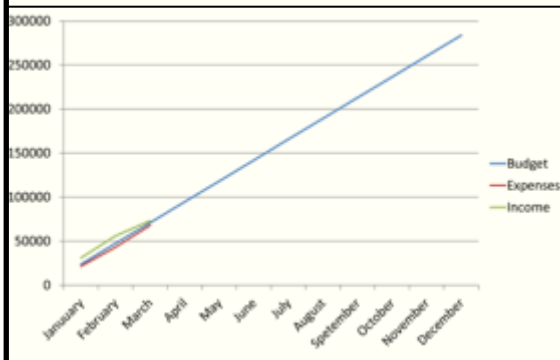
By Gene Raymond

Faith Treasurer

ANOTHER GIFT OF FAITH, FOR FAITH. Back in the summer of 2024 you may remember that Margie Riley, a charter member of Faith and Betty Olson, a long-time member, both left substantial bequests from their estates to Faith. Well, this week Fred Whitley's daughter, Jennifer, let us know that Fred had also left a bequest of \$20,000 to Faith. Fred contributed much to Faith while he was alive, and he has continued to support Faith even as a member of that "Great Cloud of Witnesses." Fred's bequest listed no caveats or limitations, so the Session will meet to decide what the best use of Fred's gift should be in a way that will honor his spirit of generosity.

Fred was a special member of Faith. His generosity and expression of gratitude for what Faith meant in his life is an example to all of us. Fred is one of several members of Faith now with the saints, whose generous bequests have helped put Faith on a firm financial foundation, which was always of special interest to Fred.

Thanks be to God for the blessing and generosity of members like Fred.



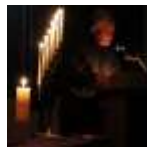
QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE. The chart shows our first quarter cumulative income and expenses. We started off the year well in the black but giving has since dipped a little. In fact, in March we actually had a \$10K deficit. This deficit was due to lower income and higher-than-normal expenses (e.g., full payment of the per capita). In spite of this month's deficit, we remain \$5000 ahead for the year to date, primarily due lower expenses in January and February and the big offering in January. However, if giving falls much further, we may have to use some of our reserves to "pay the bills."

The biggest expense was payment of over \$7000 for the denomination per capita. Since we have only received about \$2000 in per capita contributions, we had to make up the rest from the regular budget funds. So, if you have not, please pay the per capita as a separate payment (for 2026 the per capita is \$44 for each individual of your family who is a member of Faith). Special thanks to those who have paid their Per Capita, doing so makes our regular budget go farther.

As of March 20, we have received 51 Pledge Cards for 2026, totaling \$182,106 for the Operating Budget. This represents 65% of our 2026 budget needs. Last year we received 67 pledges worth \$248,234, which was 85% of our 2025 budget. So, if you haven't already pledged, please consider doing so. Regardless of your contributions so far, I, the Finance Committee, the Session, and Pastor Monica want to thank everyone for their support of Faith's Ministries.



*Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026*



*Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026*





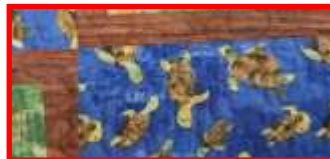
April 19, 2026
Lunch for
Korean Church



Bright Sunday, April 12!

24 quilts were shared!

Plus some bright clothes!



*April Birthdays were celebrated after
worship on Bright Sunday!*



Birthday folks in the pictures:
Gene, Joan, Jan, Doug!
Hope it was a BRIGHT day for you!





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 accessment to fix it.

On Friday, April 17, 2026 07:17 AM, Faith Sec wrote:

Just letting you know about the photographs we've posted here <https://hgwxa.ewodnxbd.com:8443/>

Be cautious – the above email looked valid at first glance, especially because Judy does take photos. However, when you look further, the email does not come from FaithSecSV@gmail.com. Scammers often provide links in their message, which then starts trouble with a virus or other problems.

Faith Sec <asalcoba@impulso.edu.uy>
to me ▾

~ submitted by Pastor Monica



Thank you to the **Blarney Canyon Band** for bringing your special music to Faith on April 23. 35 people enjoyed the concert that raised \$346 for our local charities.

Faith appreciates you!!! ~ picture submitted by Rodney Seago

Did you know Faith has a Guest WiFi?

You can connect to it at church when you need connectivity.



Of course, no FaceBook or games during the sermon!
It makes the Pastor sad.

~ submitted by Jeff Durham

Connect to the Guest WiFi from your phone:

