Faith Presbyterian Church
2053 East Choctaw Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
Phone: 520-378-9400
Email: faithsecsv@gmail.com
Website: www.faithpresb.org

~ Awesome August ~

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 August 2026 for worship and fellowship.

~ WALKING IN FAITH ~

August 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….

Inspirational Messages from Faith!

Messages created by John Wettack

PASTOR'S POST

Dear Faith Family and Friends,

As I celebrate my first year as your pastor, I have come to deeply relate to the scripture reading in 2 Peter 3:8: "*With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*" I am finding that a month flies by like a day and sermon deadlines fly by like telephone poles on the interstate. It is already August, and I'm still working on my list from June! Even so, I can truly say that I am deeply blessed to be here with all of you. Praise the Lord!

While we won't start most new church activities until September, families are already gearing up for the school routine. I am sure the summer raced by for them as well. Yet, while the seasons change and the weather fluctuates, God's grace remains steady and *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* (Hebrews 13:8)

As our schedules get busier, we need to follow the advice Jesus gave to the disciples: "*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.*" (Mark 6:31) A quiet place looks different for each of us – for some, it might be early morning prayer time; for others, a walk in God's creation, and for others, enjoying a cup of coffee alongside the "These Days" devotionals.

Of course, we can't be at rest all the time. I encourage you to think of ways you can get involved with the ministries of our Faith family. If you have ideas for something new, please let me know. Not everything we try will be successful, but we won't know until we step out in faith. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely noted: "If we do nothing, there will be no result." So, let us not be afraid to try new things together.

As we look ahead, I am excited to offer our youth an opportunity to begin a Confirmation journey. Confirmation is a wonderful time to explore faith, ask big questions, express doubts and grow in community. To best serve our students, I plan to offer flexible, one-on-one or small group sessions tailored to fit their needs and busy schedules. If your student would like to be a part of this year's journey, please let me know so we can work out schedules. I would also love to talk with any adults who might be interested in helping lay out the plan for the months ahead and/or walking with us on this journey.

Many of our committees took a break in July but will be back at it in August. In particular, the Buildings and Grounds Committee has been exceptionally busy gathering quotes for major upcoming upgrades to doors and lighting. Speaking of lighting, it seems that light bulbs act like boxes of Kleenex during allergy season. They all seem to be empty or burn out—at the exact same time! Recently, several lights in the ladies' restroom went out simultaneously. It got so dark that Judy kept a flashlight on standby, just in case the last bulb gave up the ghost. Thankfully, the restroom lights were officially upgraded to bright, efficient LEDs. In the words of Genesis: there was light… and it was good!

As we approach the fall season, let us continue to give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. I am contemplating adding a "Praise" or "God Sightings" corner to our monthly newsletter – a dedicated space to share personal testimonies of what God has been doing in our lives. For example, Linda Perkins-Murray recently attributed her faster-than-expected healing to "prayer and protein." Wouldn't it be a wonderful blessing to read about other answered prayers, joys, and everyday miracles experienced by our church family?

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26) Have a wonderful, safe, and blessed August.

Pastor Monica

FAITH STEPPING STONES

~ Happy August Birthday ~

Larry Lambert	*03*
Judy Pike	*03*
Bill Brouwer	*07*
Heather Carter	*13*
Albert Reine	*16*
Robert Schratz	*18*
Jamie Rutgers	*20*
Tina Durham	*23*
Connie Pitzel	*24*
John Osborne	*26*

~ Happy August Anniversaries ~

Rick & Kathy Barr	*18*

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
July 2026

July 5	**92**
July 12	**67**
July 19	**62**
July 26	**74**

Weekly July Attendance
74

"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?" **Psalm 27:1**

Faith Presbyterian Elders

Scott Bird	**- Mission & Steward**
Jeff Durham	**- Personnel**
John Gulde	**- Bldg & Grounds**
Judy Pike	**- Clerk**
Susan Powers	**- Worship & Music**
Gene Raymond	**- Treasurer**
Rodney Seago	**- B&G, M&S**
Brenton Silva	**- Bldg & Grounds**
Lisa Tuttle	**- Christian Ed, W&M**
Rhonda Unicume	**- Mission & Steward**
George Wheat	**- Bldg & Grounds**

Faith Presbyterian Deacons

Kathy Crawford
Bethany Dunn Gulde
Marne Gulde
Heather Mayhew
Randy Mitchell
Charlotte Osborne
Dori Richard
Barb Schratz
Bob Schratz
Holly Seago

~ August 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch *Doc's Watering Hole*	5	6 8:30 am Fellowship Breakfast at *My Place* 2:00 pm Grief Group Conf. Rm.	7	8
9 Greeting card making after Worship, Conf Rm	10	11 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch *Doc's Watering Hole* Finance 2:30 pm Worship & Music	12	13 2:00 pm Grief Group Conf. Rm.	14	15
16 Amazing Graze "Sunday Sundaes" ***Communion*** 	17	18 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch *Doc's Watering Hole* 4:00 pm Deacons	19 Ladies Lunch 11:30 *Vinny's Pizza*	20 2:00 pm Grief Group Conf. Rm. 3:00 pm Mission and Stewardship	21	22 Big Presbytery Event - Mesa
23	24	25 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 am Men's *Doc's Watering Hole* Session 6:00 pm	26 Game Day 2:00 pm SH Choir 6:00 pm	27 2:00 pm Grief Group Conf. Rm.	28	29
30	31					

WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY

Game Day
Wednesday,
August 26, 2:00 pm

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

Doc's Watering Hole

11:30 am each Tuesday in August

Come and enjoy the fun with the men!!.

Picture submitted by Rodney Seago.
Taken at the Dickey's BBQ 7-7-26

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Thurs, August 6

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

Picture submitted by Susan Hilliard.

~ Ladies' Luncheon ~ Wednesday, August 19 - 11:30 am ~

Vinny's Pizza

Pictures taken by Jane Riester at LaCasita Restaurant on July 15.

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship!!

Every Tuesday morning: 10:00 am
Chair Yoga! Kathy Crawford is the leader.
It's great exercise and fellowship time!!

Don't forget to hug yourself!!

Think ahead for September!!

The **Faith Backpack Program** was started in 2015 as a result of a "church has left the building" visit to St. Vincent de Paul. Sandy Brown, a deacon at the time, saw an opportunity. Eleven years later, the need is still as critical as ever! From **September 14 through October 11** we will be collecting the requested items and/or funds to fill 72 backpacks. A donation bin will be in the narthex for your donated items. All funds collected will be used to purchase items that were not donated. The backpacks themselves, have been donated by an anonymous giver. Any remaining cash balance will be presented to St.; Vincent de Paul in the form of a check. St. Vincent de Paul is always appreciative of our "Faith" backpacks as are the people receiving them.

Moe information will be listed in the September newsletter. The list of items needed will be in the narthex. Consider purchasing hotel size items.

I've always liked the symbolism of sheep in the Bible. We believers are often referred to as sheep to show our need for God's guidance and care. (John 10:27) And as God cares for us, we are commanded to care for others. In John 21:13-17 Jesus commanded Peter three times: "Feed my lambs." "Take care of my sheep." "Feed my sheep."

May we continue to feed God's sheep not only with our food donations but also by showing kindness and love to others. During the past month, your Deacons have:

- Taken the donations of 158 pounds of food to St. Vincent de Paul
- Sent 19 cards to church members

Submitted by Charlotte Osborne

Deacons that were available on July 12: Barb, Bob, Kathy, Marne, Randy, & Dori.
Thank you for all your help in the kitchen!!!

Do you want to learn how to make greeting cards?

Betty Spering will be sharing her talents in the conference room after church on Sunday, August 9.

Faith will furnish the supplies. Make cards for yourself or for the deacons. It's fun and great fellowship!

Sign up in the narthex if interested.

~ MARK YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR ~

SEPTEMBER 7 - Labor Day Holiday

SEPTEMBER 13 - "Faith Family Fellowship Sunday"

The Choir Returns - Annual Faith Picture

Amazing Graze Potluck and Sing-Along

SEPTEMBER 20 - Communion

SEPTEMBER 27 - Special Music

"Tucson Highlanders Pipes and Drums"

You are invited to come to Faith, worship God and enjoy fellowship with our church family.

Montlure 100 Year Celebration Weekend in Greer

Come and experience the magic of Montlure! Our Centennial Weekend invites all who have been touched by Montlure - alumni campers and staff, volunteers, donors, and friends - to reconnect with the camp that holds so many memories. Sing familiar songs around the campfire at Twilight Chapel, head out on scenic hikes, enjoy quiet moments of worship and reflection, and engage in a variety of games, activities, and service projects.

This weekend honors the rhythms that have shaped generations—then and now—and celebrates the community that continues to gather here. Come remember, reconnect, and experience Montlure Camp. Then. Now. Aways.

Labor Day Weekend, September 4 - 7, 2026

Options to stay on-site or to stay nearby. Registration is $75 per person which will support the Centennial weekend and the mission of Montlure.

REGISTER TO HOLD YOUR SPOT!

URL: https://www.montlure.org/alumni-weekend

LifeCare Assisted Living
July 10, 2026

"Donut Day!"

Thank you Margaret Jo, Danette, Jerry, Paul, Randi, Barb and Bob for sharing sweet treats with the residents at Life Care. You are a blessing to Faith and Life Care!

Picture submitted by Margaret Cogswell-Vaughn.

Children's Church is available each Sunday during worship.

Bring your children and grandchildren!

They will enjoy a Bible lesson and playtime!

Pictures submitted by Lisa Tuttle

Dear family of Faith,

Photo submitted by Richard Carter

Shirley and I have been blessed at Faith these past nine years. Our faith has been challenged through the dark times of Shirley's illness and death. You have surrounded us with your love and kindness. Yes, you are a friendly church, which is what I asked when we first visited in June of 2017.

(to Shirley's mortification). Dave Rockwell would often tease me by asking, "Are we still a friendly church?" Emphatically, YES!

We survived the covid experience and came through mostly intact. We have had three pastors and one fill-in pastor during these nine years, but we are blessed to have Monica as our pastor now.

I will miss the many friendly faces that greet me each Sunday! You are a blessing to this community in so many ways. Carry on in God's grace!

New address:
710 19th Street - Unit A
Lynden, WA 98264

Phone:
360-201-1887

Email:
billshirleyb@comcast.net

In Christian love,
Bill Brouwer

Are you interested in becoming a member of Faith Presbyterian? If so, please let Pastor Monica know.

There will be a "new member's class" in August to learn more about being a Presbyterian and information about joining the Faith Family.

It's exciting to watch our family grow!

"SHOE DRIVE" Fundraiser!!

All types of shoes!
Adult and kid sizes welcome.
Must be clean & intact.

P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Chapter CW in Sierra Vista is having a shoe drive to raise money for scholarships for women's education.

Put your gently used shoes in a bag and place them in the marked box in the narthex at Faith from August 2 through October 11.

They will be repurposed and reused.

Thank you for your support!

Share your garden!

If you have an abundance of produce in your garden and would like to share, please bring it to Faith and place it on the designated table in the narthex.

Faith Presbyterian will be updating the official church data base with a new directory format.

There are new forms available to complete your family information.

Please complete this form at your earliest convenience and return it to the office. If you no longer live near Faith but wish your information to be included in the directory, please let us know and a form can be emailed to you.

Thank you!

Our Faith Choir needs new Members!

Please prayerfully consider joining us and serving our congregation in this way.

Rehearsals start on August 26 at 6:00 pm.

Talk to Debi Godwin if you have questions.

Community Music

Rehearsals for **Sierra Vista Sings** will start on August 17 at 6:15 pm for the two coed groups and August 18 at 4:30 pm for the All Ladies group. Sierra Vista Sings concerts are scheduled for December 5 and 6. Sierra Vista Sings ensembles are The Note-Ables (all women), High Desert Singers (co-ed), and Vocalise (co-ed, light jazz). New singers are always welcome! Just reach out via e-mail (sierravistasings@gmail.com) or through any of the choristers if you are interested in joining.

18th Annual Community Hymn Festival on Sunday, October 18, at 2 pm at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. "Our Freedom in Christ, Our Hope for Tomorrow" is the theme as a special Christian celebration for America's 250th Anniversary. There is no cost for this event; a freewill offering will be taken to benefit Peach's Pantry, which has been helping to feed children in Cochise County for over 10 years.

Greetings and love to our Faith Family,

We joined Faith Presbyterian Church in 2009. Ruth served as an Elder (Music and Worship), and I served as an Elder (building and grounds).

We enjoyed singing in the Church choir with the immensely talented musicians who provide Faith Presbyterian's meaningful and inspiring Christian music ministry. We were also very fortunate to work with many fellow Church members as Deacons.

It was an honor to be selected to represent Faith Presbyterian Church in service to Montlure Christian Camp after the many years since it was closed by a forest fire. To help get the camp open again has been a great blessing.

Being members of the Faith Presbyterian Church has made a positive difference in our lives. This congregation is very special to us and we greatly appreciate the friendship, support and love that we have received from our Faith Presbyterian family. We will miss you but are not going far away. We will stay in touch. Love to all as we move in August.

George and Ruth Van Otten

New address:

8512 N. Crosswater Loop

Tucson, AZ 85743

Phone:

George: 520-236-2654

Ruth: 520-249-2034

Email:

George: George.Vanotten@nau.edu

Ruth: r_vanotten@yahoo.com

Thank you to all our musicians and acolytes!
You certainly enhance the worship service at Faith!

Let's keep the candles burning and the music inspiring!

Happy
July
Birthdays

Independence Day
Celebration ,July 5, with
Star-Spangled Potluck
and patriotic sing-along!