



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

Email: faithsecsv@gmail.com

Website: www.faithpresb.org

~ Super September ~

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

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



~ WALKING IN FAITH ~

September 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....



Children praying!



~ Communion ~



Hugs!

"Thank you God for"



~ Ice Cream ~



Rain!

PASTOR'S POST

Dear Faith Family and Friends,

Change is in the air ...

You might wonder why we need to make changes right now. Please know that I recognize that your faithfulness to God's word remains strong. We are not changing because of a new pastor or a shift in our beliefs. Instead, we are adapting to our new reality. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8) We, however, change as we grow older. Our congregation experiences this change daily as members adapt to physical limits, manage health needs, or travel in retirement."

Yet, the reality is that every single person enriches our church family in a special way. We cherish the wisdom of our older members alongside the joyful energy of children during worship. God's presence and spirit remain strong in this family of faith.

We are incredibly blessed to attract new families and young adults. Together, you have built a warm and welcoming space where people can safely explore their faith. Thank you for this wonderful blessing! However, there is a caution in this: it would not be fair to expect newcomers and younger generations to simply step in and carry on with "the way we have always done it." *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens* (Ecclesiastes 3:1) and we are in a season of transition. The reality is that the ways of our faith community will need to be adjusted repeatedly as the years go by and culture changes.

For now, we are making changes to how we handle offering, communion, and fellowship time. I deeply appreciate the support and input of the leadership team as we navigated these decisions in response to our current lack of volunteers:

- **Offering:** Gene, our church treasurer, has provided a helpful article to explain the specific changes to how we will collect the offering.
- **Communion:** We will now serve communion from the front, similar to how we handle intinction, but using trays of bread and cups. The worship leader and I will personally serve anyone who prefers to remain seated. This shift requires two fewer servers.
- **Fellowship Time Snacks:** Because we have experienced gaps in folks signing up to provide snacks, the Deacons will now provide a standardized assortment (such as crackers, cheese, chips, pretzels, and drinks). This will be supported by a formal budget line item for next year.

The Amazing Graze: This beloved tradition will continue! You are invited to share your culinary delights, whether homemade or purchased. Going forward, each Amazing Graze will feature a fun theme. I plan to ask Larry Dikema to create trivia questions related to each theme—I still wish we had shared his wonderful ice cream trivia questions with everyone! What fun that was!!

Finally, I believe that our greeters have one of the most important jobs in the church! Greeting can feel intimidating at times. I am personally tested every week on my ability to remember names. There are regularly between 60 and 70 faces I try to associate names with! I cannot tell you how many times I get a name wrong, but everyone has been incredibly understanding and forgiving. Ultimately, a warm smile and a kind greeting mean much more than we sometimes grasp.

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. Every day I am blessed to walk alongside this church family as we continue our journey of faith.

May God bless us always,

Pastor Monica

FAITH STEPPING STONES



~ Happy September Birthday ~

<i>Donald Townsend</i>	03
<i>John Gulde</i>	05
<i>Larry Dokken</i>	08
<i>Anita Huiatt</i>	15
<i>Marne Gulde</i>	17
<i>Nancy Falconer</i>	18
<i>Janis Wheat</i>	20
<i>Randy Richard</i>	22
<i>John Stevenson</i>	23
<i>Mike Mitchell</i>	24
<i>Don Townsend</i>	25

~ Happy September Anniversaries ~

<i>Tom & Betty Spering</i>	02
<i>David & Jamie Rutgers</i>	02
<i>Dick & Jan Laycock</i>	11
<i>Jack & Lynne Ainsworth</i>	12



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

August 2026

August 2	85
August 9	70
August 16	80
August 23	57
August 30	75

Average weekly attendance
73

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift: that's why we call it the present."

Faith Presbyterian Elders

Scott Bird	- Mission & Steward
Jeff Durham	- Personnel
John Gulde	- Nominating
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
Marne Gulde
Heather Mayhew
Randy Mitchell
Charlotte Osborne
Dori Richard
Barb Schratz
Bob Schratz
Holly Seago

~ September 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch <i>Country House</i>	2 Choir 6:00 pm	3 8:30 am Fellowship Breakfast at <i>Country House</i>	4 10:00 am New Member Class	5
6	7 	8 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch <i>Country House</i> 6:00 pm Worship & Music	9 Choir 6:00 pm	10	11 10:00 am Donut Day Life Care	12
13 Faith Family Fellowship 	14	15 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch <i>Country House</i> 2:30 pm Finance 4:00 pm Deacons	16 Ladies Lunch 11:30 Guadalajara Grill Choir 6:00 pm	17 3:00 pm Mission and Stewardship	18	19
20 " <i>Communion</i> 	21	22 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch <i>Country House</i> 6:00 pm Session	23 Game Day 2:00 pm SH Choir 6:00 pm	24	25	26 Memorial Service 10:00 am Sonny Coble
27 Tucson Highlanders Pipes and Drums 	28	29 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch <i>Country House</i>	30 Choir 6:00 pm			

WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY

Game Day
Wednesday,
Sept 23, 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, September 3
Country House, 8:30 am
1081 E. Fry Blvd.



Picture submitted by Susan Hilliard.



~ MEN'S LUNCH ~

All men are invited to join the Men's Lunch at **Country House** 11:30 am each Tuesday in Sept.

Come and enjoy the fun with the men!!.

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

~ Ladies' Luncheon ~
Guadalajara Mexican Grill
99 AZ-92W, Sierra Vista

Wednesday, September 16 - 11:30 am

*Enjoy
Good
Food!*



*Fun
And
Fellowship!*



*Pictures at Guadalajara
Mexican Grill
June 17, 2026*

~ Submitted by Judy Pike





**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!!



Good Luck Bethany!!

Bethany Dunn Gulde, Faith's Video Tech. and Deacon, moved to Florida to live with her Grandmother and go to college.

August 16 was her last day at Faith and a gift was presented to her from the session.

Let us pray that Bethany embraces her fresh start and enjoys the new chapter of her life.



**Thank you for joining Faith for the
“Sundae Sunday” amazing graze!
Lots of Fun!**

September starts a new season with kids back to school and many returning from travels. Our Amazing Graze theme will be “Faith Family Reunion” on September 13. The choir will be singing during worship and the Faith Family Picture will be taken at the end of the service.

The Deacons have taken 84 pounds of food to St. Vincent de Paul in August and 17 cards have been sent.



Thank you to the very special Deacons - Bob, Dori, Heather, Kathy, and guest helper, Deb for being available for Sundae Sunday on August 16. Ice Cream Sundaes are a lot of fun!!



**Enjoying
Ice Cream!
YUM!**



~ MARK YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR ~

SEPTEMBER 4

10:00 AM Orientation for any who want to learn about Faith
Presbyterian

SEPTEMBER 7

Labor Day Holiday

SEPTEMBER 13

"Faith Family Fellowship Sunday"

The Choir Returns

Annual Faith Picture

Family Potluck and Sing-Along



SEPTEMBER 20

Communion

SEPTEMBER 26

Memorial Service for Sonny Coble - 10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 27

"Tucson Highlanders Pipes and Drums"



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

LifeCare Assisted Living August 14, 2026



“Donut Day!”



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

Picture submitted by Heather Mayhew.

Do you like to make greeting cards?

A greeting card making class was conducted by Betty Sperring after worship on August 9. If you missed this one, there will be another class scheduled sometime in the future. It's fun and great fellowship!!



Thank you, Betty, for sharing
your talents with Heather,
Debbie, Monica, and Lynne.



How can **Emergency Medical** or the **Police** on a Wellness Check enter your home if you are medically unable to open the door?

Your local Fire Department has a small, FREE Lock Box that they will install.

Fill out their form and take it and your front door key to Fire Station 3—675 Giulio Cesare Avenue
(near the DMV)

Monday thru Thursday
8 am - 3 pm

You will be called for an installation appointment. Their installation crew brings your Lock Box with your key and information already tucked inside.

Forms are available in the Narthex.

Submitted by Joanie Heiserman



"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 through October 11.



They will be repurposed and reused.

Thank you for your support!



*Reflections on
Lake Stevenson*

8-14-26



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!





Sonny Coble joined the “Great Cloud of Witnesses” on Sunday, August 9. He made a quiet ascension to be with God, his wife Mary Jane, and two special friends Kim Fox and Fred Whitley.

Prayers are with his family members as they prepare for the memorial service at Faith Presbyterian Church, Saturday, September 26 at 10 am.

The memorial service will be with full military honors as he was an officer and retired 20-year veteran in the Army. His picture was on the Veterans Hall of Fame at Canyon Vista Medical Center in 2016.

Please join your Faith Family as we celebrate the life of Sonny Coble.



And We Didn't Even Get To Say Goodbye...

Looks like our church breakfast is moving. Come Thursday, Sept. 3 at 8:30 a.m. Our church breakfast group will gather at the **Country House** on Highway 92 at Choctaw. They took our reservation so let's support it and see where we are seated!

(submitted by Bridget Diekema)

Treasurer's Update

By Elder Gene Raymond

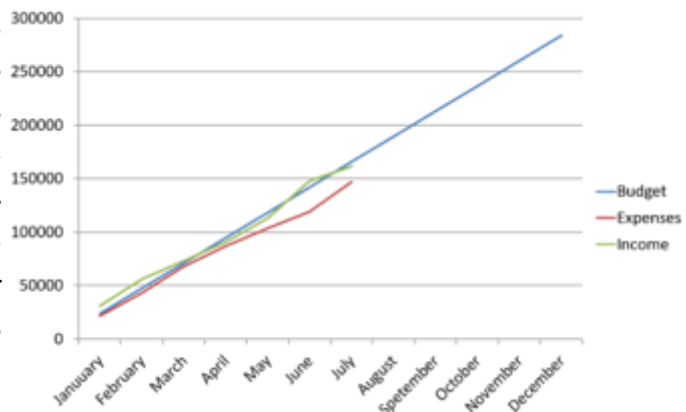
Faith Treasurer

FAREWELL TO THE COLLECTION PLATE. NO, this does not mean that you can stop bringing your offerings to support the church's ministries, it only means that we will no longer be "passing the plate" during the offertory. At their last meeting on August 25, the Session voted to do away with ushers for the regular Sunday service. The Session did this because we cannot seem to get members to sign up to be ushers consistently (you have probably noticed all the blank spaces in the "Faith Needs Help" table in the bulletin insert). We will still have greeters, since folks seem willing to do that (and we thank you all for doing this), but they will not serve as ushers. Since the primary function of the ushers was to "pass the plate," Session voted to stop doing this.

Instead of "taking the collection," we will place offering plates around the Sanctuary in which you can place your offering. You can do this when you first come in, when you leave, or during the offertory. We ask your patience as we work through this new way of collecting the offering. Another option for contributions is to consider using "Bill Pay" if it is offered by your financial institution. You can also set up recurring payments using Faith's website, faithpresb.org. Just go to the "Donate Now" link at the top of the page. This will take you to a page with a number of funds pictured. Select "General Fund." This will let you set up a regular giving program using either a credit card or direct funds transfer from your bank account.

However you choose to give, I, the Session, and Pastor Monica thank you for your continued generous support to Faith's ministries.

FINANCIAL UPDATE. The chart shows our first seven months cumulative income and expenses. We are doing pretty well so far in spite of the dip in income in July, which is usually during the summer. July's "dip" notwithstanding, we are still almost \$15,000 ahead for the year to date. Thank you everyone whose generosity has made this happen.





Faith is thrilled to have children coming to children's church. Elementary age children are welcome to join us. A bible lesson precedes playtime for 1st through 6th grade students.

We would love to have more volunteers to join in the fun!



Pictures submitted by Lisa Tuttle August 16, 2026

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. Now, 11 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 monetary donations will be used to purchase items that were not donated. The backpacks themselves, have been donated by an anonymous giver.

Any **monetary donations** in the form of a check may be made payable to:
Faith Presbyterian Church with
“Backpacks” on the memo line.



List of items needed. Please consider hotel size.

- ♦ Hand wipes
- ♦ Hand sanitizer
- ♦ Skin lotion
- ♦ Sunscreen
- ♦ Chap stick
- ♦ Washcloths
- ♦ Bars of soap
- ♦ Soap bar holders
- ♦ Feminine pads / Tampons
- ♦ Deodorant
- ♦ Toothpaste
- ♦ Toothbrushes
- ♦ Toothbrush holders
- ♦ Can openers
- ♦ Pocket flashlight and batteries
- ♦ Small writing pads
- ♦ Pens
- ♦ Small packs of Kleenex
- ♦ Combs
- ♦ Ziplock gallon storage bags
- ♦ New or gently used baseball caps / knit hats
- ♦ Shampoo
- ♦ Decks of playing card