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

~ Outstanding October ~

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 October 2026 for worship and fellowship.

~ WALKING IN FAITH ~

October 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

"Faith Family Fellowship Sunday"

September 13, 2026

PASTOR'S POST

Dear Faith Family and Friends,

Fall is in the air. The leaves are just starting to change color in some places. The mornings are starting out a little cooler. This is the time of year when "pumpkin spice" flavor rules – cake, coffee, creamer, bread, bagels, cream cheese. What doesn't come in pumpkin spice flavor? I couldn't help but do a google search, and yup, even beer, liqueurs, and spirits come in pumpkin flavors! I don't think we'll see any of those pumpkin drinks at the October Amazing Graze, but it will be fun to try everyone's favorite pumpkin recipes. If you are not a pumpkin fan, bring what you like and you won't have leftovers, this I know!

Change is a natural part of God's creation, and it is change that we are used to and expect. There is change all around us all the time, but sometimes the pace of the change can be overwhelming. On a national level, we have the tension caused by the mid-term elections. On a personal level, we face changes in our mobility, energy level and abilities. It is easy to feel anxious about unexpected change, but we have a God who never changes. One of Sonny Coble's favorite hymns was "Sweet Hour of Prayer." When change threatens to overwhelm, make time for sweet hours of prayer and tap into the strength of our never changing and ever-present God. Hebrews 13:8 says, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever,"* and that is a blessed assurance indeed!*'*

The new year of 2027 will be here before we know it. October offers time for reflection and for remembering where we saw God's grace as we consider how we can reflect God's grace in the months ahead. As part of preparing for the upcoming year, we focus on stewardship. Stewardship is discerning what you feel God wants you to do with the resources you have been given. Our resources include our time, talent and treasure.

Prayerfully consider how and what you can share. The Nominating Committee will be seeking faithful volunteers to step into leadership roles as we will have vacancies for Elders and Deacons. If you feel a nudge to serve, or if you want to nominate someone who would be a great fit, please talk with me or George Wheat.

1 Peter 4:10: "*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

All that talk of pumpkins reminded me of the "Pumpkin Gospel," which I've used for children's sermons. What is it like to be a Christian? "It's like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the field and the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

Matthew thought our light was important: "*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

May our light shine through the coming months as the hours of darkness grow longer. With God's word as a lamp for our feet and a light on our path, may our faith glow even brighter so that others will see Jesus' love through us. May the light of our faith remind those around us that they will never walk alone – even when they are weathering a storm or walking through the wind and rain. The Faith family is friendly, loving, and always ready to welcome others into our caring community.

May God's light shine on our paths and guide our steps.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Monica

FAITH STEPPING STONES

~ Happy October Birthday ~

Tom Spering	*01*
Laura Wheat	*06*
Jerry Whelan	*11*
Mario Gonzales	*14*
Joie Heeter	*14*
Benjamin Gulde	*17*
Huck Rutgers	*19*
Debbie Wood	*22*
Bethany Dunn	*23*
Betty Spering	*23*
Doug Templeman	*24*
Diane Derr	*25*
April Desaulniers	*25*
Barbara Heinrich	*25*
Kathy Crawford	*30*
Randy Mitchell	*31*

~ Happy October Anniversaries ~

James & Aya Diekema	*13*
George & Janis Wheat	*22*

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
September

September 06	**75**
September 13	**90**
September 20	**84**
September 27	**103**

Average Sunday Attendance

88

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible." *Corrie ten Boom*

Faith Presbyterian Elders

Scott Bird	**- Mission & Steward**
Jeff Durham	**- Personnel**
John Gulde	
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**
	- Nominating

Faith Presbyterian Deacons

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

~ October 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 am Fellowship Breakfast at *Country House*	2	3
4	5	6 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch Olive Garden 3:00 pm Mission and Stewardship	7 6:00 pm Choir	8	9 10:00 am Donut Day Life Care	10
11 12:00 pm Card Making Conference Room	12	13 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch *Olive Garden* 6:00 pm Worship & Music	14 4:00 pm Presbyterian Foundation 6:00 pm Choir	15 .	16 Budget input due to Finance	17 10:30 am Carol Ortega Memorial
18 ***Amazing Graze Pumpkin Theme***	19	20 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch Olive Garden 2:30 pm Finance 4:00 pm Deacons	21 11:30 am Lunch Bunch Golden Dragon 6:00 pm Choir	22	23	24
25	26	27 Chair Yoga 10:00 am Conf Rm 11:30 Men's Lunch *Olive Garden* 6:00 pm Session	28 2:00 pm Game Day 6:00 pm Choir	29	30	31

WHAT'S HAPPENING - OUTREACH MINISTRY

Game Day
Wednesday,
October 28
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 Olive Garden
11:30 am each Tuesday in October

Picture submitted by Rodney Seago.
Taken at the Country House
9/1/26

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Thurs, October 1
Country House, 8:30 am
1081 E. Fry Blvd.

Picture submitted by Susan Hilliard.

~ Lunch Bunch ~

Golden Dragon October 21, 11:30 am

Come and enjoy lunch and fellowship with the "lunch bunch".

Pictures from the Guadalajara lunch on September 16 were submitted by Jamie Rutgers.

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

Enjoy Yoga!!
Give yourself a hug!
Play with the balloon!

MEET LAURA GAMMON

FAITH'S NEW AUDIO/VISUAL TECH

Laura was born in San Diego, CA. She has a degree in Criminal Justice and was a Forensic Technologist with the San Diego Police Department.

Laura wanted to spend more time helping her parents, Jan and Dick Laycock, so she and her son, Gunner, moved to Sierra Vista this year.

She is a lover of dogs and is very glad to be a part of Faith Presbyterian.

Thank you to the Deacons who were available to help at the Family Potluck.

Kathy, Randy, Dori, Bob and Barb - Faith appreciates you!!

The deacons would like to welcome back those members of the congregation who have been traveling, had many summer activities or were away because of health challenges. Our Faith Family Reunion Sunday with a family potluck and sing-along was a good start to the fall season. Thank you to all who brought food to share!

The next Amazing Graze will be on Sunday, October 18 and the third Sunday of November and December. October's theme is "pumpkin".

76 pounds of food was collected for St. Vincent de Paul in September.

23 cards were sent for birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thinking of you, and sympathy.

The Newsletters will be changing starting with the November issue. The software package that Faith has used for many years will no longer be available, so watch for changes in the layout. With a little luck, it will be better than previous months!!

NEW MEMBERS

September 13, 2026

Jeannine Lockwood

Jeannine was born in Shenandoah, Iowa. She graduated with a Master of Applied Anthropology from University of Maryland and spent her professional life working with legal refugees who fled war and persecution in their countries: Eastern Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Jeannine loves to travel. She lived in Okinawa, Japan and Argentina. She taught a Strengthening Families program in Moscow, Russia. God laid the path for her. She feels blessed and is so glad to be at Faith.

Sita Ocianica

Sita is a CNA in critical care at Canyon Vista Medical Center. Some of her hobbies include knitting, crocheting, and reading. She loves all things outdoors, and would gladly live out the rest of her days in the mountains if she could.

Sita says it is an absolute pleasure to be a part of the community here.

Judy Langer

Judy was born in El Paso, TX and moved to St. Louis, MO as a teen. She met her husband and traveled to Tucson where they decided this was the part of the country that they wanted to live.

She became acquainted with Faith through her good friend, Suzanne Johnson and the Grief Share program.

She is very happy to be here and be a part of Faith.

~ World Communion October 4 ~

World Communion Sunday is a global Christian celebration observed on the first Sunday of October that promotes unity and ecumenical cooperation through the shared sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

SAVE THE DATE!

Faith Presbyterian is going to the Gaslight Theater, Tucson, Arizona!

Don't miss this chance for some great fun and laughs.

"BUCKANEERS OF THE CARIBBEAN"

Sunday, 28 February 2027, 3:00 PM

66 seats have been reserved.

The Tucson Highlanders Pipes and Drums - 9-27-26

Heiland Lads and Lassies of Sierra Vista entertain during fellowship

"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!

Join the fun making greeting cards after fellowship Sunday, October 11 in the conference room

Life Care would like donations of Halloween candy for the residents to hand out to others.

Please bring any donations to Faith by Sunday, October 25, and place them in the designated box in the narthex.

Life Care facilities make Halloween a treat by handing out candy on that special fun day!

~ Baptism ~

Sita Oceanica
"Child of God"

~ New Members ~

Welcome to your Faith family:

Jeannine Lockwood

Sita Oceanica

Judy Langer

Family Fellowship Potluck and Sing-Along
Sunday, September 13, 2026

Children's Church

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 Heather Carter 9/20/26.

*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! Faith will be collecting items and/or funds through **October 11** to fill 72 backpacks. 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