


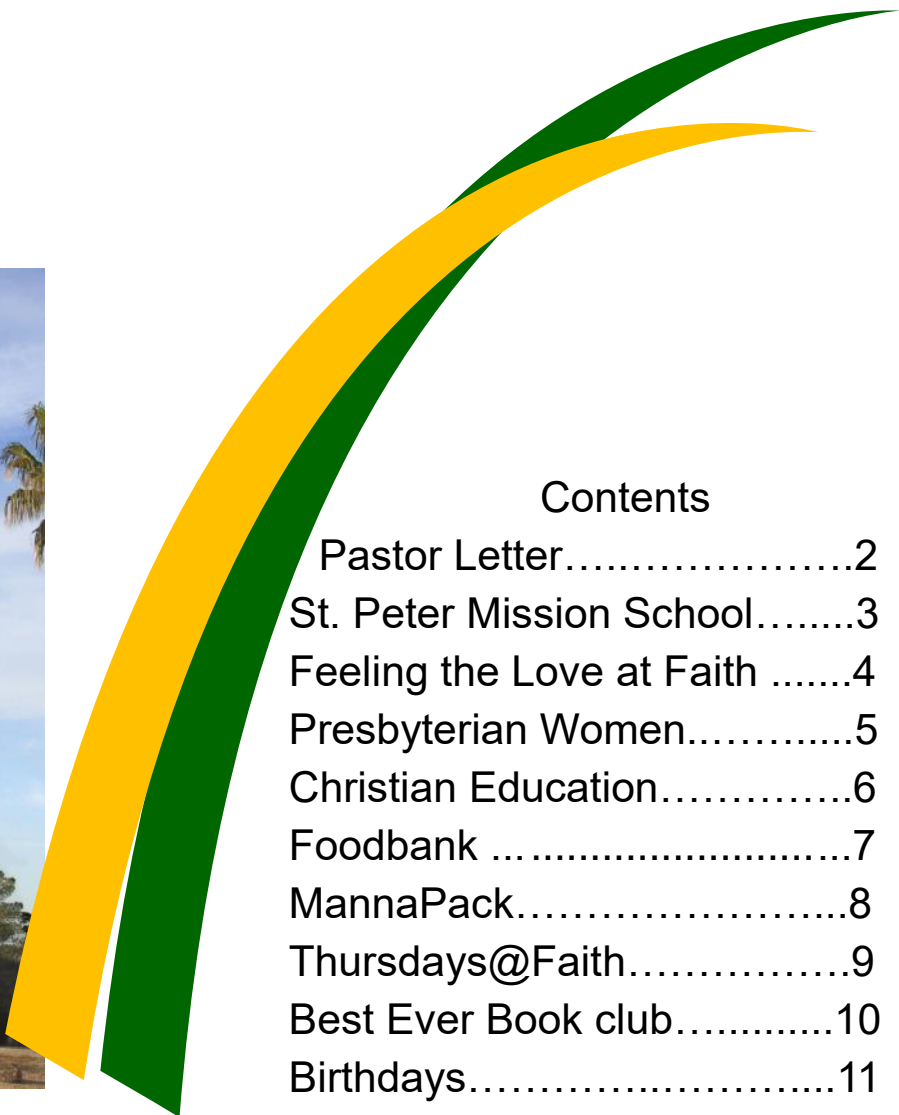




# Mustard Seed

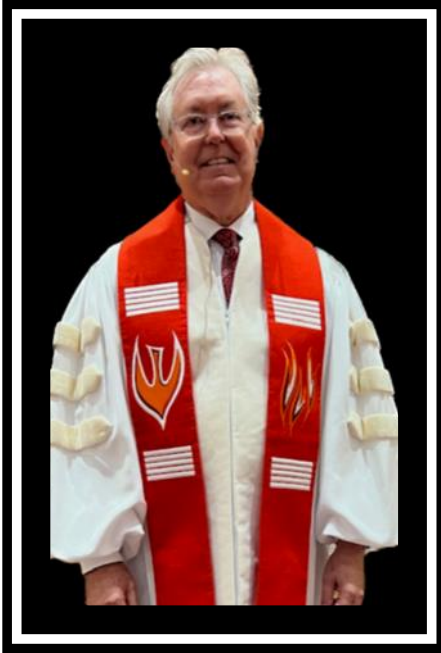
Look Inside for Further Details . . . . . January 2025

-  Feeling the Love at Faith
-  Food Bank
-  Thursdays@Faith



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## Dear Members and Friends of Faith Presbyterian,

I address you as “friends,” much as Jesus did in a scene described by one pastor as he wrote an introduction to the sacrament of Communion:

“On a different night, under a different set of stars, that same child, now grown and at the other end of his life, gathered his friends and they shared a meal. On that night, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to the disciples saying, ‘Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” The “different set of stars” refers back to the visit by the Magi and the star which they followed, and the Magi visit marks the end of the Christmas and brings us to the new year.

*Happy New Year!* ... now a quarter of the way into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That seems impossible! Weren't we just worrying about Y2K and the turn of the century. 9-11 does not seem like such a distant memory. But here we are, together,

embracing a new year that will surely bring blessings ... along with change - blessings and change in our own lives and that of the church.

After a period of study and getting to know one another, our visioning process will result in several interesting ideas for change (I firmly believe). “Change” is in reaction to the way the world is changing around us. Our church only goes back 50 years, not much in terms of the life of the greater church. Yet the 1970's, which most of us remember well, was a vastly different cultural and religious scene. So be it. Every type of organization has needed to adapt and church is not exempt.

The key question is, “What would God have us do in this place and time?” The vast majority of American denominational churches are asking the same – and maybe it is time we talk with one another, as the best answer is likely greater than what any one church can devise.

Whether or not you participate on the Visioning Team which kicks-off this week (January 10 at 10:00 AM), be sure to relay your thoughts, ideas and even dreams, to me or the Long-Range Planning Committee that is guiding this process: Maria Sinley, Dana Kovach and Sandra Baldwin.

My wife Anne and I thank you for all of the Christmas generosity extended to us. We could not have known what the change would feel like coming from Tennessee to Arizona. But you have made us feel good, and we feel good about the church and our new friends in Christ.

**Blessings and Happy New Year,  
Pastor Greg**

## St. Peter Mission School

Barbara Munn, Jan Dallai, Jerry Burnett and Barbara Burnett made a trip to St Peter Mission School in Bapchule, AZ last month. They delivered five large tubs of quilts and two gigantic bags of hats and scarves to Sister Barbara. She took the time to give us a tour and introduced us to several of the other nuns. They were all appreciative of our creative efforts!! The quilts and knitted items will be given to the 200+ children who attend the school and their families.

Note: We have kits ready to be picked up by Faith members who would like to help in this mission. The kits are not difficult and the finished quilts will be lap quilt size.



## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

To everyone that participated in this years Salvation Army Angel Tree! Jan Dias and I started with 65 Angels and ended with 0 thanks to our very generous Faith Church donations.

On Friday, December 13th, Jeremy and Michael showed up at 9:00 am with their empty van and by the time we hauled it out of the church and loaded it was filled.

Many children here in the Valley will have had a very Merry Christmas thanks to your generosity!

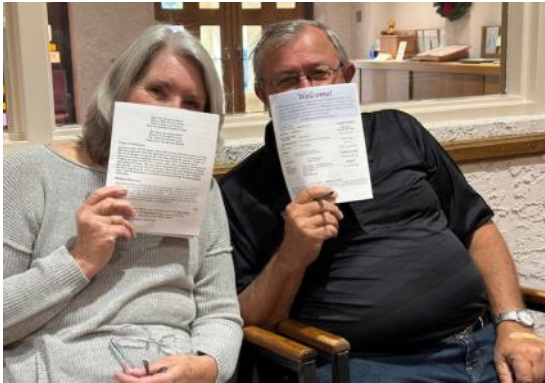
Blessings,

Pat Redden and Jan Dias





Feeling the love at Faith!



## Presbyterian Women (PW)

### January 2025

As 2025 is beginning, I find myself reflecting on the year gone by and feeling excited for the possibilities that 2025 holds. This year has been a whirlwind for many of us, filled with both challenges and triumphs. No matter what your experience has been, a fresh start brings a renewed sense of hope. To help you step into the new year approach it as a new path that has yet to be stepped on. You can focus on what's wrong in your life or you can focus on what's right. We can always chose to perceive things differently.

### Pop Tarts for HEART!

January is the month for Pop Tarts for HEART! Boxes are in the entrance of Illingworth Hall for your donation. This collection is for the teens who do not have enough food at home and many are living in shelters. HEART works with local school and community counselors to provide eligible teens with needed items. This is one of our missions that we support throughout the year.



### Thursday, January 16, 2025

Our next gathering will be on **Thursday, January 16th** in Illingworth Hall with fellowship starting at 10:15am, followed by a short meeting and the program beginning at 11:00am. We will be hearing about **"Clothes that make Men the Man!"**. Be sure and pick up your luncheon tickets which are on sale in the Narthex at the PW Table. Join us for a wonderful program and luncheon.

For those of you who missed our last gathering, you really missed some important information. Policies have changed and the service they provide in our retirement community is too much to list. So, if you hear of a "RUOK" presentation go hear what they have to offer, you just might learn something new!

Ladies, don't forget to pick up your tickets for our next gathering on January 16<sup>th</sup>; come meet some new ladies and enjoy the fellowship. See you there!

### Special Thanks

With special thanks to **Susan Benson and Clare Bergstrom**, your food service at our gatherings make it

truly special and we couldn't be more excited for the upcoming months. Thank you again for all you do.

Warmest Regards,  
The Ladies of Faith

### Books for 2025

The Grand Canyon Presbyterian Women book list is here and books are located in our library! The criteria for the selection of the books are to enlighten our minds, to challenge our consciences, and to entertain us. There are fiction and non fiction so check out a book, relax! A list is provided where you check out a book just inside the door. If you need assistance just see Anne Daughters.

### Faith Women Bible Study

#### Thursday – January 2, 2025

**Our fifth lesson: Air Quality.** We will be learning from the outset of Scripture's story of life, and air has been associated with God, who breaths life into every human and animal. **Our scriptures: Genesis 1: 26, 30, 2: 7; 6: 17, 7: 15, 22; Psalms 32: 2; 104:29, Job 7:11; Isaiah 42: 5;** With the holiday season last month our attendance was down a little and you were sorely missed. Here's hoping all have safely returned home and are ready to start this New Year. Looking forward to hear about your wonderful visits with family and friends over a cup of coffee or tea and a cookie before we start; so come early for our fellowship. Until then see you in church!

**Do not cling to old ways as you step into a New Year.**

**His thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love.**

**He alone knows the plans he has for us to give hope and a future."**



## News from The Christian Education Ministry (CEM) ....



**Dana Kovach**

Happy New Year! January is a great month to resolve to pursue some new learning initiative for self-betterment. Don't forget to invite those around you to enjoy our programs. Always check the Sunday Bulletin for the absolute latest developments.

**Tuesday @ 10** blesses those able to attend. It's been amazing at what Professor Amy-Jill Levine is sharing in "Great Figures of the New Testament". Hope you'll sample treats, fellowship, discussion and video!

The Book Club has restarted at 10:30am in the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Look elsewhere in the Mustard Seed for even more details.

The FPC Library is open during regular campus hours. You can search our collection on-line with your cell phone, computer or laptop. Check with one of the devoted library volunteers on how to do this. It takes a little learning – which I'm sure you will find satisfying. Always feel welcome to check out wonderful books and materials during the week and on Sunday.

Additionally, other groups offer learning and support options:

The Presbyterian Women continues its fun and inspirational Bible study (September through May) on the first Thursday of the month. And yes, men are welcome.

**Sun Health** will be providing great programs throughout our area in January. Check out their website for additional information (<https://www.sunhealthwellness.org/in-person-classes/>).

FPC supports **The Low Vision Support Group** meeting once a month (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday). This month's meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our Presbytery offers a weekly email chock full of learning value named: EFOCUS (<https://www.azpresbyteries.org/newsletter-grand-canyon>)

If you have a great learning opportunity you would like to help bring to fruition, consider joining us on the CEM! Contact *Dana Kovach* for how to get involved!

Remember there is still time to make a donation to Habitat for Humanity that can be claimed on your 2024 taxes. All donations to Habitat have to be made by April 15, 2025. Make your check payable to Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona. There is a Habitat form that needs to be used so that you and the church receive credit. Your donation will help the West Valley Presbyterian Coalition in reaching its goal for this year's build. If you are interested contact Jeff Sinley to receive a form.



Habitat for Humanity and the West Valley Presbyterian Collation are building a home for Amy and her two teenage children at 8453 W. Washington Street in Peoria. Amy has moved around a bit, and it has been a struggle to find stable housing. This home will allow Amy and her children to have a place to call their own and put down firm roots. Amy works as an admin where she assists seniors with scheduling appointments. With the support of Habitat and the Collation, the work of changing lives continues.

**We appreciate live flowers. If you wish to donate, please contact Anne Daughters by phone at 623-512-6740 or by email at [annelmd@q.com](mailto:annelmd@q.com). The cost is \$20 per bouquet. You can select flowers as memorials, special events or just to honor Faith church. Anne will work with you to see if you would like any special flowers or colors.**



valley view community

# foodbank

## Donating Money



Your gift makes a huge difference! By donating to the food bank, your generous donations ensure that hungry people in your community will have enough food to eat. Your donations allow the food bank to buy food at discounted costs and help feed people through various programs including their Farmers Market, emergency food boxes and more. It's as easy as putting a check in the offering plate on Sunday and designating Valley View Community Food Bank on the message line.

## Donating Food



Valley View Community Food Bank welcomes food donations from our community. Food items can be dropped off at the designated table in the Narthex and will be delivered monthly. They always need healthy foods to put into their emergency food boxes for families in need. Most needed items are soups, tomato sauces, stews; peanut butter and jelly; fruit juice and bottled water; oatmeal and other healthy cereals; canned fruits and vegetables (including low salt and low sugar); baby food and diapers; personal care products, including adult diapers and feminine hygiene products.

## Donating Time



When the food bank says “they can’t do it without you,” they really mean it! They pride themselves in saying this is the community’s food bank because of the dedication of their volunteers. Valley View Community Bank has more than 760 volunteers who help feed the community and run the food bank on a daily basis. Volunteers are vital to the success of the food bank and its support of the community. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please email them at [volunteer@feedingaz.org](mailto:volunteer@feedingaz.org). or call them at 602-486-4285.

Peace/Justice/Mission Committee Ministry

## Feed My Starving Children

### Want to help feed some starving children without going overseas?

Join our FPC team at a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Manna Pack packing event  
Friday 21, February 2025

Time to be determined.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
13724 W Meeker Blvd  
Sun City West, AZ 85375

This is going to be one of the most memorable events of your life.

We need volunteers. Will you go?

I spoke up. "I will go. Send me."  
(Isaiah 6:8)



Contact Jean Flower  
contact info in the church  
directory.

Peace/Justice/Mission  
Committee Ministry

To include your group or committee on the calendar and/or in the bulletin, we ask the chair/leader to submit the time, date, location with an email to MaryJo at [office@scfaith.org](mailto:office@scfaith.org) by no later than the Wednesday before at 10 a.m. to be put on the calendar or included in the Thursday emails and/or Sunday bulletin.

Thank you!



# Thursdays@Faith

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

## **OLDE FOLK TRIO**



Join Olde Folk for a hootenanny featuring songs from the folk music revival of the 50s and 60s! Sing along to favorites from artists like Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan, and groups like the New Christy Minstrels and Peter, Paul and Mary.

**Dinner @ 6:00pm / \$15 Program 6:30pm**

**Cut-off ticket sales at 11:00 a.m.**

**on Monday, January 20**

**There is no charge for the concert without a meal. Freewill donations are accepted.**

**Thursday, February 13, 2025**

## **WEST VALLEY SINGERS**



Enjoy classical to seasonal favorites provided by the West Valley Singers, a vocal ensemble directed by Ted Frasier.

**Dinner @ 6:00pm / \$15 Program 6:30pm**

**Cut-off ticket sales at 11:00 a.m.**

**on Monday, February 10**

**There is no charge for the concert without a meal. Freewill donations are accepted.**

If you need wisdom  
ask our generous God  
and he will give it to you.  
James 1:5

**SOUL SNACK.**

If you are not receiving the Faith Church emails and would like weekly information, send an email to MaryJo at: [office@scfaith.org](mailto:office@scfaith.org)

Deadline for Mustard Seed newsletter is the 20th of each month. Send your information to MaryJo at [office@scfaith.org](mailto:office@scfaith.org).

## HERE'S THE DEAL!

The popular games of **Bridge and Hand & Foot** are on their way at Faith Presbyterian Church. Plan to join your friends for an afternoon of fun, conversation, light refreshments and cards.

**Bridge:** 1st Wednesday of the month,  
**Off for the New Year**

**Hand & Foot:** the 2nd Wednesday of the  
**January 8, 2024**

**Where?** In the Iona Room

**What time?** 12:30 p.m. for Bridge; 12 p.m.  
for Hand & Foot

**Cost to play:** \$0.50 per person.

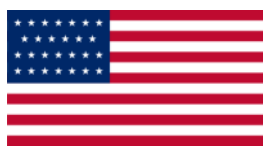
Prizes will be awarded to the top scores and the lowest score.

Please call **Judie Ives**, contact info is in the church directory, if you plan to attend so that we know how many tables to set up.



Two United States of America flags fly proudly on our campus. From time to time these need to be replaced. Members and friends are invited to donate a flag in honor of or in memory of a loved one. These are the specifications: The flag must have 50 stars and the size needs to be 5'X9.5'.

If you do not have access to a flag that size but still want to give one, a \$100 donation will cover the cost and Peter will order one in your name for the church.



## Best Library Ever Book Club

Book Club will meet on **Monday, January 13, 2025 at 10:30am in the library**. The book to be discussed is 'The Frozen River' by Ariel Lawton, which is a page-turner and historical fiction mystery. A fascinating story, loved by all readers (to my knowledge!) Please join us for what will prove to be an interesting discussion leading who know where. Feel free to come even if you have not read the book.

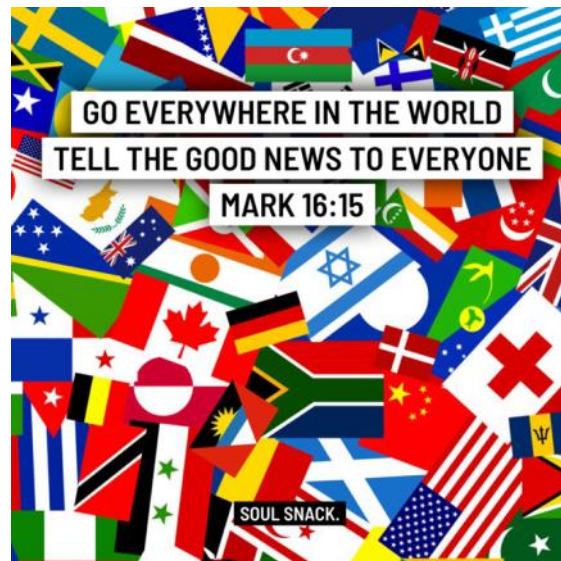
Everyone is welcome.

Dottie Oliver, Librarian

## Prayer Warriors -

**Saturday, January 11 & 25 at 11:00 am**

phone conference 1-774-267-7989. Please send prayer requests to Susan Edwards via email at contact information is in the church directory.



**If you are not able to join Sunday worship in person, please join us Livestream**

**Sunday morning or view recordings on other days:**  
[www.scfaith.org/video-center](http://www.scfaith.org/video-center)

If you miss us in the morning, check back Sunday afternoon, or any day following, to play the video recording on your computer.



## Happy Birthday to ALL celebrating a birthday in January

	Birthday
Alice Gough	5
Joaquin Iturriaga	6
Peter Bugilan	10
Carol Ryman	10
Bob Geier	12
Curtis Westbrook	12
Carol Sisson	12
Jeff Sinley	15
Frank Dias	18
Tom Ciesielski	19
Bob Hatcher	23
Evie Guthrie	24
Becky Epperson	27
Bob Blean	30
Paul Willemsen	31

**Faith Presbyterian E-mail Addresses & Phone # and extension #'s**


**Church Phone** ..... 623-974-3611

**Pastor/Head of Staff**  
**Greg Emery** ..... greg@sfaith.org  
 ..... ext. 104  
**Cell Phone**.....731-345-6765

**Office Manager**  
**MaryJo Steger**..... office@sfaith.org  
 ..... ext. 105

**Building Superintendent**  
**Peter Bugilan** ..... pbugilan@sfaith.org  
 ..... ext. 112

If you know of a member or friend of the church who is in the hospital or needs special attention, we ask that you call the church office at 623-974-3611 or one of the Pastors cell phones. We appreciate your help in obtaining this information.

Thank you for your generous giving to all good causes as the Spirit of God guides you. Faith Church offerings may be sent by mail, or use the drop-off mail slot at the south door. Visit our website and click on the  button on the Home Page with your charge card, debit card, or PayPal.

**CALENDAR INSTRUCTIONS**

To get the most up-to-date calendar of church events go to [www.sfaith.org](http://www.sfaith.org). On the right hand side of the "home page" you will see the following information:

*Faith Church Calendar*



<https://7404426>    [8.view-events.com](http://8.view-events.com)

To return to the Faith Presbyterian Church web site click the "back arrow" in your web browser

Closing the calendar at the X will close the Faith Church web page

Just click on this button to get the latest calendar.

**Low Vision Support Group**



The Low Vision Support will meet.  
**Monday, January 13, 1-2pm** in Westminster.  
 For more information contact Dr. Mary Ann by email at [makhoss777@gmail.com](mailto:makhoss777@gmail.com).

16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City 85351-1604

## **Mustard Seed**

Editor MaryJo Steger  
office@scfaith.org  
Church Office 623-974-3611  
E-mail info@scfaith.org  
Web Site www.scfaith.org

## January 2025

Please remember Faith Church as a Beneficiary in your Will, Trust or IRA.

### **Please call the office:623-974-3611.**

- When you or a member of your family is admitted to the hospital or is otherwise injured or seriously ill.
- When a new family moves into your neighborhood.
- When your class or group plans to meet so that a room can be reserved for you and placed on the church calendar.
- When your home address, or phone number, or email changes so the church records can be amended.
- When you are planning to move - either out of town or locally.
- When you feel the church can assist you in any way.



## **A Memorial Fund Reminder**

When you lose a loved one, you grieve that loss in many ways. You want to remember each person with special memories of your lives together.

The Faith Church Memorial Fund is a prayerful way to honor loved ones. Donations can be made to the church in such areas as music, library, or worship - some area your loved one enjoyed. You can also let the Memorial Committee choose where your donation will most help the church.

The Committee meets regularly to review the funds and needs of the church.

Contact Barbara Benson or Office Administrator, MaryJo for more information. Your generosity in memory of your loved one can be part of your grieving, showing your love for Faith Church.

*Faith Presbyterian Church is an welcoming, and caring community, committed to serving Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God and to love one another. We worship, study and grow in understanding as we work for justice and peace in the world, inspired by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, great things are possible. (From Matthew 17:20)*