



Mustard Seed

Look Inside for Further DetailsSeptember 2026

-  Celebration of Lives: Bob Hatcher, Ann Manus & Steve Fribley
-  Congratulations to our Newlyweds
-  Thoughtful Thursdays



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Dear Friends near and far,

So much for August being the slow time of the church year. Over the span of the mid-two weeks of the month (before Anne and I left for a late-August vacation) we had three worship services, including Royal Oaks, three memorial services, three “vision” update presentations, a Sing-a-Long, Session meeting, the return of the Thrive school group, and meetings with pastors of two other churches (more on that below).

With that busyness, I thought I would give Artificial Intelligence (AI) a shot at writing this monthly newsletter article for me. Here’s how it started, “Dear members and friends of Faith Methodist Church of The Villages, it sure is humid this time of year ...”. OK, so much for AI taking all of our jobs.

In fact, although AI might be useful in church for marketing and finance, all of what we do is exceptionally personal. And by we, I mean the many dedicated volunteers who make worship, memorials, fellowship and our campus, places and times that we attend to the most important aspects of life, and death. Thank you!

Speaking of pastors, we have arranged a “pulpit exchange” for October 11 with Rev. Brian Anderson of the Sun City Congregational Church. Brian and I have been “coffee-ing” since shortly after I arrived in Arizona. You will have a double-dose of Northern Irish accents that Sunday, as Brian and Rory are country-mates.

The Session has voted to arrange a field trip for all members and friends - a bus trip to visit the Franciscan Renewal Center and the Japanese Friendship Garden. Both are great examples of spiritual places that attract huge numbers of

participants and visitors. This will be late-October or early-November to ensure that temperatures have fallen into a more comfortable zone, as we will be outdoors most of the day.

By now you have likely seen samples of paint being applied to the exterior of our buildings, as we narrow in on possible color schemes. The campus is due for a repainting, and looking at a combination of colors, rather than continuing with the vanilla, provides us an opportunity to create a more distinct and welcoming visual.

Rory is moving ahead with ways to broaden our music offerings and to reach out to the wider community, from kids to seniors. He will give us a presentation on this in early September, but it includes offering singing/choral lessons to the Thrive school kids on Tuesdays (and open to the public) as well as to West Phoenix residents of all ages. We have continued to experience a wide array of wonderful music under Rory’s leadership, and we look forward to the return of our choir.

Be sure to thank our fantastic staff when you see them: MaryJo, Peter and his staff – Roger, Younan and Margie (our latest new employee). With the increased use of our campus, we ask all of these folks to coordinate many more activities and events, which they do with diligence and grace.

Thank you for reading; it is an honor to serve you.

Peace and blessing from Anne and me, Greg.

Faith Campus
will be closed on
Monday, September 7, 2026
for Labor Day

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Kris & Kerry King



Thank You!

Kerry and I would like to give a huge Thank You to the church, MaryJo, the deacons Diane & Barb. To Paul and Bill for the sound. Rory for the music and Mary for the pictures taken. For everyone's hard work with our wedding.

It went so smoothly with your help. Pastor Greg did a great job officiating!
It was just beautiful.

We felt loved by our church for sure.

Thank you from Kerry and Kris King



Bob Hatcher

1/23/1936 – 7/3/2026





Biography of....

Ann Manus

2/29/1932 – 7/31/2026



Ann Manus was born in Columbus, Ohio on February 29, 1932. She passed away peacefully on July 31, 2026, with her family by her side. Ann was the ninth child in a family of ten children. She is survived by her loving sister Patricia Green (David), nieces Stephanie Westerfield of Valencia, CA. (Jim), Andrea Green of Surprise, AZ; nephews, James Manus of Titusville, FL, D Fisher Stokes of Evart, MI; Great nephews, James D. Westerfield of Valencia, CA. and Davis L. Wright of Surprise, AZ; and a great niece, Marissa N. Wright of Surprise, AZ.

Ann worked 40 years in the Insurance industry and retired as a Legal Secretary to the Vice President Legal Counsel of Columbus Life Insurance Company. She was an active member for many years of Professional Secretaries International, serving on its Board of Directors. While still living in Columbus she was a long-time member and Deacon of the Worthington Ohio Presbyterian Church where she also volunteered as an Administrative Assistant to the Pastor.

In 1992 she retired to Sun City, AZ to be with her sister and family. Soon thereafter she became a member of Faith Presbyterian Church. She volunteered at the church's front desk for 12 years. She loved working at St Mary's Food Bank and volunteering at Banner Boswell Hospital for over 100 hours.

Her main interests were reading, sending cards and notes to family and friends. She also was an avid tennis player playing until age 85! Ann participated in the tennis Senior Olympic Games in St George Utah. She brought home bronze medals in mixed doubles.

Ann was a quiet spiritual person putting God, Church, Family and Friends first in her life.





Biography of....

Steve Fribley

11/3/1931– 8/4/2026

Stephen "Steve" Fribley was driven by curiosity, analysis, and a belief that almost every problem had a solution waiting to be discovered. Throughout his life, he applied those traits to his work, his church, and the many organizations and people he served, always looking for practical ways to improve what was in front of him.

Born in Auburn, Indiana, Steve grew up in a family with deep roots in Christian ministry. He graduated from Purdue University, where he met Sue Belle Taylor; they were married 63 years. Steve was an officer in the US Army and was stationed in Virginia and Okinawa, Japan. After Okinawa, Steve and Sue Belle returned to Indiana and opened a John Deere dealership and he later transitioned into engineering, where his practical skills, mechanical aptitude, and analytical approach found a natural fit.

Steve's engineering mindset extended outside his career to working on property committees, spending time in the metals and woodshops in Sun City and volunteering countless hours on building and maintenance projects. He often saw opportunities where others saw obstacles and was rarely satisfied with the first solution if he believed there was a better one. Whether improving facilities, conserving resources, or finding creative ways to stretch the church's budget, Steve approached each challenge with determination.

Steve and Sue Belle eventually made Sun City, Arizona, their home, where they became members of Faith Presbyterian Church. After Sue Belle's passing in 2016, Steve remained engaged in the life of the church and was grateful

for the companionship of Carole Bentley during the final decade of his life. Her friendship brought joy, support, and shared faith during his later years.

Steve was the father of five children and was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sue Belle, and his eldest son, Stephen Robert. He is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, his companion Carole, and many extended family members and friends.



Thank you!

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Faith Men's Club for the generous \$400 donation to the Decorations Committee. These funds will help us purchase the florals and banners for our upcoming Fall decor.

We plan to begin installation between mid-September and the end of September, and the display will remain through Thanksgiving. Your support truly helps us enhance the beauty of the church, and we are very grateful for your contribution.

Attention Faith Song Birds

Choir Practice begins

Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 2:00p.m.
(practice is for an hour)

All our welcome!



Habitat for Humanity and the West Valley Presbyterian Coalition, of which Faith is a part, helped a disabled vet and his wife make repairs to their house through the Aging in Place Program. They were able to get plumbing repairs, roof repairs and a fresh coat of exterior paint. This is the third family that has been assisted this year because of the Aging in Place Program and the partnership of Habitat and the West Valley Presbyterian Coalition. This is faith in action.

A bio of the homeowners has been posted in the Habitat bulletin board in the breezeway.

If you would like to make a donation to Habitat there are donation forms in the Narthex or see Jeff Sinley.



Faith Church/Calvin Library BEST LIBRARY EVER

Attention!

Book Club will meet Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at 10:30am to enjoy the book, "Hello Beautiful" by Ann Napalitano; discussion leader is Faye Owens. Snacks will be provided along with coffee, tea and water.

Please come and join us.

Library hours 9:00am to 3:00pm M-Th.

On Wednesday volunteers are there to assist you. The library is open on Sunday mornings 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Our book club meets on the second Monday from September - April.

Thursdays@Faith

Lone Mountain Band

and Blanket Drive

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

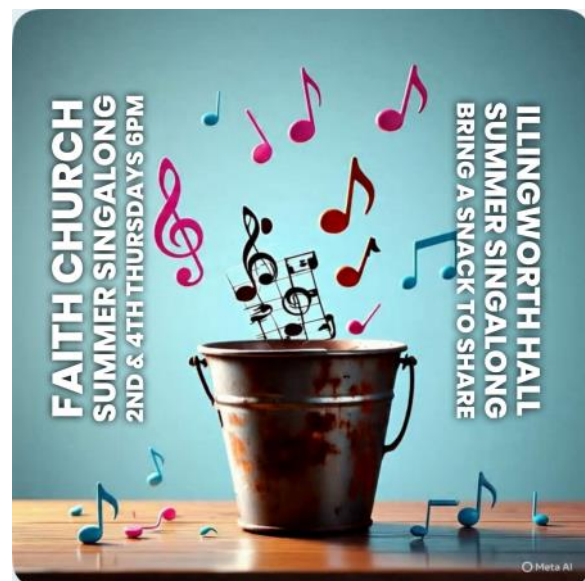
More info to come in the
October Mustard Seed



SUMMER SINGALONG



September 10 & 24, 2026
5:30pm food first
6:00pm program



Presbyterian Women (PW)

September 2026

Women of Faith Gathering

A Season of Blessing and Fellowship

Welcome back Ladies! We are excited for another season and look forward in seeing you to help share all the wonderful things we have planned for this year.

Women Bible Study

Our Bible Study Gathering with **Phyllis Conner**
Topic: “United Through Christ, Bound To Each Other”

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026
Fellowship 9:30 AM - Bible Study 10:00 AM

We encourage you to come early for social time at 9:30 AM. Enjoy coffee, tea and cookies and settle in for a time of spiritual growth, learning and connection. We are excited to have Phyllis Conner as our leader this year, so come early, come expectant, and let us grow in faith together. We will be meeting in the Council Room. Look forward in seeing you!

Lesson 1: Scripture 1 Corinthians 1-2

An open letter to a Corinthian Church experiencing division for a variety of reasons, Paul reminds his friends of the fundamental conflict between the wisdom found in the world and the wisdom we encounter through the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Women of Faith Luncheon Gatherings

Ladies, our gatherings will be held on the **third Thursday each month starting October through April 2027**. These special events are a time for us to come together in fellowship, faith, inspiration, and friendship - AND to welcome guests and friends from around the area as well.

Tickets will go on sale the first Sunday of each month for \$9.00, or \$63.00 for all 7 luncheon gatherings. Look for more information in the October Mustard Seed.

COFFEE HOST

Ladies, we are in need of volunteers to help with the Coffee Hour after church the second Sunday of each month.

Coffee Servers: *We need 2 people to serve coffee. A chair will be available for you to sit if needed.

*Serving is right after services. You should plan on leaving the service as the final hymn is being sung to go to Illingworth Hall.

*We need 2 people to assist with the clean up afterwards. (Cleanup goes quickly since everyone helps with putting items away.)

*If you happen to be a member of the choir, please consider helping to clean up.

Please contact Barbara Livergood, Secretary by email: bjlgolfs@gmail.com or phone: 785-969-9211.

Barbara will call you the week prior to remind you. Please try to find a replacement for yourself if something has happened and you cannot serve. Otherwise let Barbara know early so a replacement can be found. Thank you.

2026-2027 Yearbook

Our yearbook will soon be out and available for you to pick up the first Sunday in October or before.

Look for Faye Owens, who is our new Ticket Sales/Greeter, in the Narthex at the PW Table.

We do hope that you look over what has been planned for this season, and don't forget to mark your calendar of the dates of our gatherings.

A reminder to all elected and appointed leaders for 2026-2027; our **first board meeting will be held on the 2nd Thursday, October 8th at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room**. All board meetings are listed in the new yearbook for your information and this meeting should only last an hour. If you cannot make this meeting or any future meetings please contact me at Clayp09@yahoo.com or text me at (623) 258-1192. Your Yearbook will be available to be picked up at that time. See you there.

Through your travels this summer, remember to bring the toiletry items you've collected and drop them off in the collection box located in Illingworth Hall. These items will go to support HART – Teens in Need, and your generosity can make a real difference in the lives of young people facing challenging circumstances.

Additionally, Faith continues to collect Old Christmas Cards for a local organization right here in Sun City. These cards are repurposed to bring joy and encouragement to others in creative ways. Your support of these causes – no matter the size of your contribution – is deeply appreciated. Every donation helps, and together we can be a blessing to others in our community and beyond.



- Continued -



Presbyterian Women (PW)

Watch for the date in the October Mustard Seed to bring in your clothing donations for W.H.E.A.T.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

In the August Mustard Seed there was information on Presbyterian Women of the Grand Canyon Fall Gathering to be held on September 26, 2026 at the First Presbyterian Church, Leupp, AZ. I hope some of you consider attending this one day event. Free transportation will be provided for the first 50 paid registrations. The departure date is Friday, September 25th from Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, Address: 13459 W. Star Dust Blvd., Sun City West, AZ. If you haven't attended one of these Grand Canyon Fall Gatherings, this would be a great opportunity. Any questions contact Emma Holmes at (480) 560-4374 or email: emmaholmesaaz@aol.com.

My Prayer for each Woman of Faith

Oh Lord, as we gather together this year to reconnect, not with the thought "I'm too tired to do anything today, but with renewed purpose and joyful expectations to look beyond the moment and into the future, knowing that God has a reason for us to gather, to grow, and to fellowship as one. That we can reach out to one another with open hearts. Only He knows the plans that He has for us. Let us be the hands and heart of Christ for everyone who walks through our doors. Amen.

Priscilla Hoskins - Moderator

Thank you Judi Jensen!

Judi Jensen passes the usher coordinator position to Joann Whitt.



Thoughtful Thursdays:

Trusted Advisors on Timely Topics



Faith Presbyterian Church will be hosting a new series of free community educational programs this fall called ***Thoughtful Thursdays: Trusted Advisors on Timely Topics.***

The programs will be held on the **second Thursday of each month, September through December, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** Each month will feature an expert speaking on a subject of particular interest to seniors and their families, followed by questions and answers and a Mix & Meet with light lunch from 11:00 a.m. to noon for the first program.

Our first program, on September 10, will feature Leslie Hoffman, Director of Recording Services for Maricopa County, speaking on *Deed Fraud: How Stealing Your Home Happens & How to Prevent It.*

Future programs will be:

Medicare – new programs, new opportunities
Senior Living Options – questions to ask, costs to consider

Trusts, Wills, Beneficiary Deeds, Life Estates – benefits and tax consequences

There are sponsors for these programs that provide services to seniors and others:

Featured Sponsors for the first program are:

Joanna Condé – REALTOR® - HomeSmart

Zack Edmonds – Edmonds Moving – Big & Small, Local & National;

Mike Collins – Popcorn Removal, Drywall Repair

Rentha Person – AB Your Choice Insurance – Medicare Specialist

These programs are free and open to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors. Come for the information and stay for the refreshments.

Reservations are encouraged: 602-908-588

Would you like to help? Please contact **Joanna Condé**, the event planner and major sponsor at **602-908-5889.**

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

HERE'S THE DEAL!

Hand and Foot players are every 2nd Wednesday in the Iona Room at Noon

Contact Gerri Crothers



Deadline for Mustard Seed newsletter is the 20th of each month. Send your information to MaryJo at office@scfaith.org.

Valley View Community Food Bank

Jesse Ramirez states, "We are in need of more food donations, personal hygiene items, and cleaning and sanitation supplies."



Drop donations at the food bank table in the Narthex.
Thank you.

A big "Thank You" to Mary Autio for all the wonderful pictures she continues to provide for the Mustard Seed Newsletter.

Also for anyone who has turned in pictures.

Thank You!

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 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!

Prayer Warriors

2nd & 4th Saturday of Every Month

Saturday, September 12 & 26 at 11:00 am
phone conference 1-774-267-7989. Please send prayer requests to Gerri Crothers at 623-694-1656 via email at gcroaz@yahoo.com



Men's September Monday Fellowship

1:30pm

Sept 7 - Billiards - Bell Rec Center

Sept 14 - Shuffleboard - Bell Rec Center

Sept 21 - Cornhole - Illingworth Hall

Sept 28 - Darts - Bell Rec Center

Dominoes

Thursdays from 1:30pm-3:00pm
in the Iona Room.

Any questions Call Frank Dias



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

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 September

<u>Member</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Helen Garwood	3
Larry Johns	3
Barbara Herron	3
Eunice Howard	7
Rick Franklund	8
Judy Jewell	10
Bert Blean	12
Greg Owens	12
Linda St. Pierre	13
Mary Autio	16
Paul Epperson	17
Jim Chapman	20
Nihla Harrell	22
Gloria Bouckennooghe	22
Jan Dias	22
Annette Murphy	28
Susan Radtke	29
Les Redden	30

Low Vision Support Group

The Low Vision Support will meet. **Monday, September 14, 1-2pm** in the Council Room. For more information contact Dr. Mary Ann by email at makhoss777@gmail.com.



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

Church Phone 623-974-3611

Pastor/Head of Staff

Greg Emery greg@scfaith.org
..... ext. 104
Cell Phone..... **731-345-6765**

Music Director

Rory Dowse rory@scfaith.org

Office Manager

MaryJo Steger office@scfaith.org
..... ext. 105

Building Superintendent

Peter Bugilan pbugilan@scfaith.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 the Pastor's cell phone. 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.scfaith.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

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.

Faith Presbyterian Church
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Sun City 85351-1604

Mustard Seed

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Web Site www.scfaith.org

September 2026

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

Office Hours

8:30am-3:00pm Monday - Thursday

Worship Service

10:00am on Sunday in the Sanctuary

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 Gerri Crothers or our Office Manager, MaryJo for more information. Your generosity in memory of your loved one can be part of your grieving, showing your love for Faith Church.

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, great things are possible." (Matthew 17:20)

That is our theme. It plays out this way: we are big enough to flourish, but small enough to be personal; caring for the world & community, but above politics; take the Word seriously, but ourselves not so much.

Our pastor, elders, deacons and members are here for you.