



Mustard Seed

Look Inside for Further Details October 2026

 What Stewardship is!

 Habitat for Humanity

 Thursdays@Faith

H E L L O
Autumn



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Dear Friends near and far,

As we welcome back many snowbirds in October, we can reflect on what turned out to be a quite busy summer. We continue to enjoy a great variety of music, the Jean Flower-led Sing-a-Longs were very successful, the speaker series organized by Joanna Conde started with a flourish, and the Session has been very active with numerous issues related to our vision.

Our capital campaign is off to a very good start. Thank you. Many of you are yet to be represented, however, so please focus on this important transition of the church and the chance to create a lasting legacy. We also lost many members and friends in these past few months – some have passed on and some have moved “back home.” This is not the busyness that we enjoy, but the rallying around each other in such times is a blessing.

We are in this period called “normal time” on the church calendar (when you see green paraments in the sanctuary, that is a clue). It is a run up to Advent when we follow the Scripture lectionary. Interesting that the definition of “advent” is *the arrival of a notable person*. By capitalizing the “A” we signify THE notable person. Over the summer we looked for many weeks at the Acts of the Apostles, which is mostly a post-resurrection account. We also delved into some characters from the Old Testament. So, as October begins, we will re-focus on Jesus and try for a better understanding of His divinity and why He stands alone – even though the world seems to be paying less attention.

In a country that seems to be wrapped around issues such as socialism/communism, Islam, Israel and the greater Middle East, we represent Jesus in our way of life and whatever influence we may have on younger Americans. We have a dangerous void right now, in my opinion, where politics is overcoming the church in visibility. We must remember, too, that younger generations have not lived through a world war or Vietnam, civil rights movement, a depression or outrageous interest rates (yes, Covid was a factor for all ages) ... so they cannot judge by experience and are open to dangerous, if not evil influences.

It is up to us, the collective church, to engage with people who have no idea, or great misconceptions, about who Jesus is (not was). The voices in their ears are ringing with distractions and falsehoods. Since none of us at Faith Presbyterian have a national platform from which to speak, we re-focus on how the church can engage people close to home in new, creative and personal ways.

One last note; thanks for your patience. MaryJo and I visited the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center for a tour from the director. Faith supports this mission financially. Ron and Suzanne Yankowski happen to be having lunch there that day, and many of you take advantage of their offerings. The Center is yet another example of a ministry that engages people throughout the week and throughout the day. Some 75,000 people per year visit for meals, movies, education (they have a computer room), haircuts – you name it. It reinforces the opportunity to engage with folks apart from Sunday mornings or Thursday evenings.

**Safe travels to
our returning
friends and
peace to all,
respectfully.**



What Stewardship Is and Why It Is Important

Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have—our time, our abilities, our resources, —is entrusted to us by God. Stewardship is not just about fundraising; it's about faith-raising. When we give, we aren't simply supporting a budget, we are participating in God's work in the world. We are saying, "I believe in this mission, and I want to be part of it."

Why is stewardship important? Because ministry doesn't happen accidentally. It happens when people choose to invest in it. Our worship, our outreach, our care for one another, our presence in the community—these are made possible by the commitments we share.

Your Stewardship Pledge for 2027 will help us build our budget so that we can continue the work God is calling us to do. Stewardship is a heartfelt journey of faith and generosity. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in our community and beyond.

Banner

Olive Branch Senior Center



Pastor Greg and MaryJo visited with Jennifer Lawless, Director of the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center. Faith donated \$1,000 to the center through the Peace, Justice and Mission committee and Faith's mission fund. Banner managers have also visited Faith's campus to discuss possible collaboration as Faith's vision of a faith center unfolds.





Classic Pancake Breakfast

October 25, 2026

\$5 Or Donation

All Are Welcome!

Infillingworth Hall Following Service

Meal Includes:
- Pancakes, Butter & Syrup
- Sausage
- Dessert
- Beverages:
Orange Juice, Ice Tea, or Coffee

Proceeds will be used to purchase sporting good items for group participation in building relationships.

**All are invited to the Pancake Breakfast
October 25, 2026
\$5 or donation
Sponsored by the Men's Fellowship Group**



Thoughtful Thursdays - October 8th



Our first **Thoughtful Thursdays: Trusted Advisors on Timely Topics** was a wonderful success!

130 people attended our September program on Deed Fraud, presented by Leslie Hoffman of the Maricopa County Recorder's Office.



We welcomed many people from the surrounding community. Faith volunteers who attended & helped to make sure everything ran smoothly. Many thanks to the volunteers.

Next Event - Thursday, October 8, from 10 a.m. to noon

Medicare: What's New? Does it Affect You?



Presented by **Rentha Person, Medicare specialist**, **New Medicare options & benefits are announced at the beginning of October.** Changes may affect those already on Medicare as well as those becoming eligible during the coming year.

Carl Schuetze can personally attest to her knowledge. After reviewing his Medicare & supplemental coverage, he saved **more than \$200 per month (over \$2,400/year) with no loss of benefits.**

Rentha's services are **FREE** to clients; she is compensated by the insurance companies she represents.

Please stay afterward for **refreshments & fellowship.**

Reservations are encouraged.

We hope you'll join us - & bring a friend!

See page 8 for future programs of Thoughtful Thursdays.



Thursdays@Faith



Introducing our fabulous 2026-27 Season

Your Congregational Life Ministry is offering an exciting season of entertainment and fellowship beginning **Thursday, October 22, 2026**, with the West Valley's popular **LONE MOUNTAIN BAND** featuring keyboardist Rev. Mike Campbell.

Don your denims and western gear and be ready to whoop and holler!

Again, this kick-off event will emphasize Faith's commitment to mission, akin to 2024's Christmas Party hosted by Jeanne Flower, and 2025's salute to the West Valley Community Foodbank and its founder, trumpeter Jesse Ramirez.



This year we invite you to participate in a **BLANKET DRIVE**. We noted many of the Christmas wish items for last year's Angel Tree indicated a need for blankets for the families of St. Peter's Indian Mission School, so we are addressing that need.

Please bring new or gently used blankets of any size to the church on October 11, 18, or the night of the concert. **We thank you warmly!!**

NICOLE PESCE - Thursday, November 12, 2026

Pianist, composer and arranger Nicole Pesce is a perennial favorite at Faith, wowing audiences with her extraordinary skills at the Steinway.



TICKET PRICES ARE STILL \$15.

They may be purchased in the Narthex for two Sundays prior to the event, and at the reception desk until noon the preceding Monday.

Dinner is served at 6 p.m. The program follows at 6:30 p.m.

As always, you may come to the 6:30 p.m. program only at no charge.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ENSUING CONCERTS FOR 2026-2027 OCCUR ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER - APRIL.

Take in the great lineup and enjoy delicious catered meals, topped off by Faith's own Sue Benson's famous desserts.



Aging in Place

A partnership with people age 65 or older to help them age safely in their homes.



Jeff, I appreciate you hosting the coalition meeting at Faith and the generous \$3,000 check. Faith Presbyterian Church has been such a meaningful and long-standing partner to Habitat, and I truly value the continued support you and the congregation have shown for our mission and the families we serve.

It's always a pleasure working with you and the Faith Presbyterian community, and I look forward to continuing this work together!

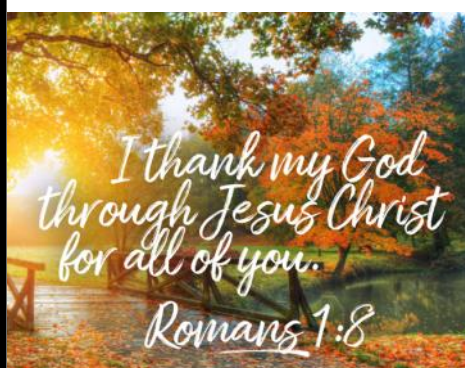
Thanks,

Adriana Olague-Steele

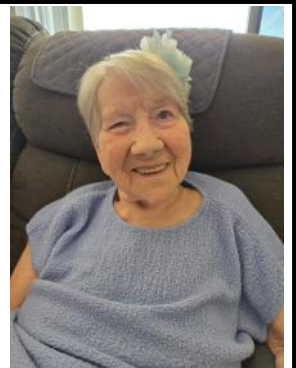
Jeff Sinley is presenting to Adriana Olague-Steele, our Habitat representative, a check from Faith for the 2026/2027 Habitat season. A meeting of the West Valley Presbyterian Coalition was held at Faith to discuss the past season and the upcoming season. The Aging in Place program received positive comments and the Coalition will continue support for next year. The focus is to help 3 Maricopa County families for 2027. The Coalition has pledged \$20,000 toward the program. If you would like to make a donation, please see Jeff Sinley. Bios of the families helped will be posted in the Habitat bulletin board in the breeze-way.



Miriam
Bedwell
103 years
old.
Royal Oaks
celebrating
centurions.



Gloria B.
turned 92
on
September
22!





Church music director Rory Dowse. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

MUSIC

Rory Dowse, Music Director at Faith was in the Independent. Rory is expanding beyond just a place of worship. He is initiating the introduction of Musicality Music Academy, a school at the church founded by Rory Dowse.

Copies of the full article can be found at the church office.

Attention Faith Song Birds

Choir Practice

Thursdays at 2:00p.m. in the
choir room

(practice is for an hour)

All are welcome!



Our Faith Quartet



Rory Dowse had the choir blowing bubbles through a straw into a cup of water...

humming into it kind of like a kazoo. Rory is helping develop the choir vocal cords so they sound like a million dollar choir.

P.S. no one spilled their water.





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.

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: 602-908-5889

Would you like to help? Please contact **Joanna Condé**, the event planner and major sponsor.

Faith Church/Calvin Library BEST LIBRARY EVER

Attention!

Book Club will meet Monday, Oct. 12, 2026, at 10:00am to enjoy the book, "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi; 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.

THANKSGIVING SINGALONG



JOIN US FOR

THANKSGIVING SINGALONG

"GOD'S THUMBPRINTS"

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2026

5:30-7:30

FAITH'S ILLINGWORTH HALL

SNACKS TO SHARE WELCOME



Welcome
Margie Chambless
Our newest custodian.

Please give Margie a Faith welcome when you see her.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

October 2026

Women of Faith Gathering A Season of Blessing and Fellowship

Ladies, it won't be long until we gather together for our first Women of Faith luncheon of the new year!

Our first **Women of Faith Luncheon** will be held on **Thursday, October 15, 2026**, and we are pleased to have **Pastor Greg Emery** as our special guest speaker.

Tickets will be available for purchase on Sunday, October 4, 2026, and October 11, 2026 in the Narthex before the service and afterward during coffee hour in Illingworth Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 each or \$70 for all 7 luncheons gatherings. These special events are a time for us to connect together and welcome new members, guest and friends from around the area.

At that time, you will also be able to **pick up your Women of Faith Yearbook**.

We look forward to seeing everyone and beginning another wonderful year together in fellowship, faith, and service.

Come join us—we have much to look forward to!

Note to All New Officers:

Our first **Women of Faith Board Meeting** will be held at **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 8th**, in the **Conference Room located in the church office on the second floor**.

At this meeting, you will receive your **2026–2027 Women of Faith Yearbook**, which will include all of the meeting dates for the coming year.

If you are unable to attend, please notify me **no later than Tuesday, October 6, 2026**, so I will know who will be present.

Email: Clayp09@yahoo.com

Phone/Text: (623) 258-1192

If I am unable to answer your call, please **leave a message or send me a text**.

I look forward to seeing all of our new officers as we begin another wonderful year of Women of Faith together!

Clothing Donations for W.H.E.A.T.

This is the month to start bringing in your **clothing donations for W.H.E.A.T.**

Beginning **Monday, October 19, 2026**, you may drop off

your donations at the **reception area in the church office**. We are collecting **gently used and new women's clothing**, as well as **new undergarments**.

Your donations will help support **W.H.E.A.T.**, and we are excited to welcome them to our **November Ladies Luncheon**. They will also have items available for purchase from **The Fair Trade Store**.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping make a difference through Women of Faith!

Together, we can make a difference!

Women Bible Study

Our Bible Study Gathering with Phyllis Conover

Topic: "Connected In Christ"

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Time: Fellowship-9:30 AM – Bible Study-10:00 AM

Lesson 2: Scripture 1 Corinthians 3-4

Through our baptism in Christ, we have all the gifts we need to live well, grow spiritually, resolve conflicts and care for each other as members of one family.

COFFEE HOST

Ladies don't forget to contact Barbara Livergood, Secretary by email: bjlgolfs@gmail.com or phone: (785) 969-9211 to volunteer to help with the Coffee Hour after church the second Sunday of each month. If you happen to be a member of the choir, please consider helping to clean up.

My thought and Prayer for you:

New adventures lay ahead of us. In Mark 4:35 "On that day, when evening come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

Jesus knows we are in need of a change to move to the other side. Perhaps God is nudging us to make a change in our life – to leave behind the familiar and trust Him with the unknowns of the future. Know that He will be with you as you forge ahead.

Lord, even good change can be scary, walking away from something I know to something I don't. But I can be courageous because You are my strength, my unchanging Savior. Amen



SEE YOU IN CHURCH!



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, October 17 & 31 at 11:00 am
phone conference 1-774-267-7989. Please send prayer requests to Gerri Crother.



Men's October Monday Fellowship

1:30pm

October 5 - Billiards - Bell Rec Center

October 12 - Darts - Bell Rec Center

October 19 - Cornhole - Illingworth Hall

October 26 - Bocci Ball - Sundial Rec Cnt

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 October

Member	Birthday
Anne Daughters	5
Marty Zilm	5
Anita Westbrook	6
Sue Ciesielski	9
Allan Bradeen	11
Pat Redden	12
Pastor Greg	12
Doris Van Benschoten	14
Laurie Cathey	20
Suzanne Hoffman	20
Anne Haynes-Caldwell	25
Theresa Forgione	26
Barbara Burnett	29
Ken Swift	30
Geni Olson	30

Low Vision Support Group

The Low Vision Support will meet. **Monday, October 12, 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
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

October 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.