

PresbyNews

Sharing and celebrating the people and events in the life of Faith Presbyterian Church
916) 428-3439, www.faithpresby.org, 625 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831

Volume 32, No. 4 February 17, 2009

Sunday Services: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School:
Preschool-5th grades
9 & 11 a.m.
6th thru 8th grades—9 am
9th thru 12th grade—9, 11 a.m.
Adult Class 10-11 a.m.

February 22
Faith Family Night
5:15-7:30 p.m.

February 25
Ash Wednesday
Dinner—6 p.m.
Worship—7 p.m.

February 27-March 1
Women's Retreat

March 3
Understanding World
Religions class
7 p.m.

March 4
Lenten service
7 p.m.

The Presby News is published bimonthly by a team of volunteer writers. Please send your submissions to Editor Jim Park at JamesParko2@comcast.net Or drop off articles/photos in the church office.

Family Promise Week Is 3/22 To 3/29

Come join us as we provide hospitality to our guest families. Do you like to cook, play games, chat with our families, or "camp out" at the church? Do you like to set up for the families or take down at the end of the week? You can sign up for those activities on the white-board. The board is on the wall across from the office at the church.

You can sign up for dinner, evening activity, and overnight teams, set up, take down, laundry, transporting mattresses to the next church, and to be a Team Leader.

We will take sign-ups in the Narthex on 2/22 and 3/8 after first and second services. If you have questions call Cynthia Crow (3929141) or Sue Hooper (3932633).

Family Promise Mentoring Program Needs You

Have you been thinking about volunteering in the community? Are you searching for the right program to share your passion for helping others? Do you want to work with at-risk families? Family Promise of Sacramento's Mentoring Program pairs volunteer mentors from our host congregations with a graduate family in order to assist them with sustaining an independent future. Once matched with a family and for as little as one hour per week, the mentor will become an advocate and advisor for the family, helping the adults to set and achieve goals while connecting them with various resources in the community. This is an amazing way to use your time and talents and will greatly benefit the lives of those that are in need of continued support. Call Laura Catherine today to get more information and get involved. 916. 443.3107



Pastor's Column

Putting God and Sex Back Together In the Same Sentence

A New Sermon Series on God and Sexuality Begins February 29th



I'm writing this the day after Valentines Day, a day in our culture on which many people love to think about all things romantic. I was even on a plane this past week and the flight attendants couldn't stop talking about Valentines Day!

We live in a culture that can't seem to get enough of romance and sex. (Or even sex without the romance!) In movies, music, television, radio, parties, schools...everywhere you go people are talking about sex. Everywhere that is, except the church.

What an irony. We serve a God who is the creator, the inventor, the perfecter of human sexuality. It was, after all, God's idea. If it God hadn't designed it as such, maybe humans would procreate like salmon (we all know how that ends...dead on the riverbank!) or like flowers (imagine bees spreading pollen

from men to women by landing on our heads). Yet in God's wisdom, God gave us sexuality, a good gift from a good Father in Heaven who loves to give good gifts to his children.

What an irony that now often the last place you'll ever hear people talking about sex is in the church. It must make God scratch his head and then beat it against a wall.

I just finished reading a provocative book by pastor and author Rob Bell called *Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections between Spirituality and Sexuality*. Even if this book weren't filled with tremendous content, I'd love it just for the title. It does what so few churches (or pastors, for that matter) are willing to do these days, which is to put those two words – *God* and *sex* - back in the same sentence where they belong in the first place.

Beginning on Sunday, February 29th, I will begin a sermon series where we will attempt to do just that. We will start by examining this extraordinary gift which God has given to humanity, even asking why God would give us the gift of sexuality in the first place. Then, we'll talk about how we can take care of this gift, using it in ways that both please God and benefit us. Lastly, we'll talk some about how we, as a community, can teach upcoming generations about this gift.

My ultimate hope is that we will be able to see how and why the words *God* and *sex* really do fit together so well. And the answers, as you probably suspect, aren't likely to be found in today's media or in the Valentines Day section of your local Hallmark. The answers, rather, are to be found in the Bible, a book that has an astonishing amount to say about sexuality. Know that I look forward, as always, to walking through this together with you.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday.

Grace & Peace,

Jeff

P.S. – Parents, just a brief warning. If you're not ready to have conversations with your kids about this topic, this would be a good series to make sure your kids end up in our children's programs. However, there is nothing that will be shared from the pulpit that I would consider inappropriate for my own young children to hear. In fact, I think our kids need to hear more of these sorts of discussions happening in the church. They're hearing it everywhere else! If you have questions along these lines, please feel free to contact me.



2009 Schedule of Lent

Lent is the 40-day period of renewal and preparation before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. For hundreds of years, Lent has been an important season for Christians to meditate, study, pray, participate in spiritual disciplines, and renew their vows to the Lord as they strive to increase their understanding of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Our hope is that you, and others you might invite, would participate fully in the Lenten activities we have scheduled here at Faith. This year, our focus here at Faith will be continuing our journey towards living lives that look like Jesus. May God renew us and prepare us to celebrate again all he did for us on the cross and at the empty tomb!

Offering (at least) 1% of Your Day, Each Day, to Time Alone With God

We are all invited to commit 1% of each day (that's about 15 minutes) in Lent to spending time alone with God through prayer and scripture. We have provided a devotional called *Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice* as a guide. It will be on sale here at the church. There are also daily scripture readings in the weekly Next Step for you to follow. We hope you'll join us for this amazing opportunity!

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

The Way of Forgiveness – A 3 week class reflecting on the meaning of forgiveness. (Begins February 22nd)
Rediscovering the Apostle Paul – An 8-week class facilitated by Pastor Jim Zazzera (Begins March 15th)
Sunday morning adult classes are always held in Room 2 between services (10:10-10:55 a.m.)

Breakfast with Quinn ~ A Youth Opportunity

For late start students on every Monday of February from 7:45-8:45am at Quinn's home.

Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship

Wednesday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. (All-church dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Link Hall)

A Worship Experience of Lent – Filling Our Sails With The Wind of God's Grace

A time of worship, teaching, reflection, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
We will be working our way through some of the core spiritual disciplines of the Christian life.
-Wednesdays, 7:00-8:15 p.m., March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1
Facilitated by Pastors Jeff Chapman & Jim Zazzera

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast – New This Year!

We will join with St. Anthony's Catholic Church this year in two prayer breakfasts. Join us March 27th (at St. Anthony's) and April 3rd (at Faith) from 7:00-8:00 a.m. for food, fellowship and worship.

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 5th, 9:00 & 11:00

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship

Thursday, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. (All-church dinner at 6:00 in Link Hall)

Good Friday Prayer Vigil & Good Friday Community Worship

Individuals will be invited to come to Faith on Good Friday (April 10th) and participate in a self-guided time of prayer and meditation (we'll have resources) from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Then, all are invited back for a service of healing and wholeness which pastor Joan Stock will lead at 7:00 p.m. that evening.

Easter Sunday Worship is Sunday, April 12th!!

Easter Sunrise service this year at 7:00 a.m. here on the church patio (with fellowship and food to follow!).
Easter Services at 9:00 & 11:00 in the Faith Sanctuary



Youth Glean for the Poor

Leviticus 23:22 'When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.'

Munchies and Crew took this message to heart and put it into action this month during their February service project – “Gleaning for the Poor.” On Feb. 3 and 4, the youth visited the homes of Faith members, neighbors and friends who graciously let us pick oranges, lemons and grapefruit to donate to SSIP.

In just two nights, the youth picked roughly 1,100 pounds of fruit. When it was all delivered to SSIP, the volunteers were so overwhelmed. They estimated the fruits’ value at just under \$1000! However, the need is so great for food, and especially fresh food, they said the large supply would likely be gone in just one week.



The youth are proud to have started a new tradition that would not have been possible without those who so freely donated their fruit trees. Munchies and Crew thank the following friends and neighbors: Hal & Ilah Turner, Gayle Alexis, Bob & Barbara Powell, Paul & Betty Keller, Adrienne Potter, Betty & Howard Payne, Shari & Richard Reyes, Hatsumi Yamamoto

You may have noticed the youth have undertaken several service projects this year – a new activity started in October and done during the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. They’ve put together hygiene kits for World Church Service, written letters to soldiers, created care packages for college students and adopted a local family at Christmas.

We thank you for your support in all these endeavors – from sponsoring kids for Crop Walk to donating shampoo, toothpaste and towels to letting us pick your fruit. THANK YOU!

Be on the lookout in April for a service project involving the seniors of our church and spring cleaning projects. More details to come.



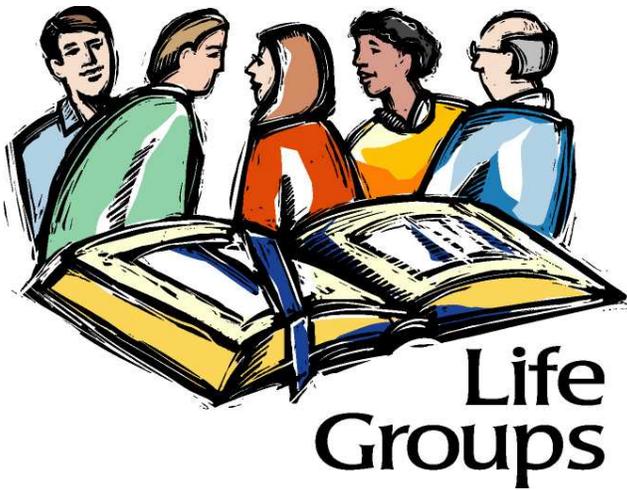
Compassion Weekend Update

The Compassion Weekend committee is currently meeting to select service projects. We have lots of suggestions but no projects yet that involve cooking, education, or the military. If you participated in one of these projects last year and really enjoyed it, please consider giving us your ideas in these areas. We are looking for project co-leaders too. Perhaps your Life Group would want to be in charge of a project. Or your Youth Group. Let us know your project ideas by the end of February so that we can finalize plans and start sign-ups. Remember, Compassion Weekend is May 2 and 3rd this year! Contact DiAnne Brown at 395-6129 or

Sierraskymktg@netscape.net for suggestions, comments, or information.

Faith's Life Groups

Part Two in a series about Faith's Life Groups



Tuesday Morning Men's Group

We are a group of men who meet from 6:30-7:30 a.m. most every Tuesday morning over hot coffee or tea at Caffé Latte (a local coffee shop on the corner of Greenhaven and Pocket). Though some of us are retired, many of us still have to hustle off after the meeting ends to our jobs. However, we all share an enjoyment of our time together each week as we wrestle with issues raised in scripture, the sermon, and our lives. We pray with and for each other. We are a group that is always welcoming in new members and even gladly includes those who, because of other commitments, can't be there every single week. *(Jeff Chapman)*

Tuesday Night Mixed Group

Our mixed (couples, singles, genders) life group: shares, prays, ponders, laughs, teases and wonders together each week. We are all challenged by: the sermons, the bible readings, the Next Step questions, other questions that these prompt, diversions of good spirit, and the commitment to attend the meetings regularly. We have shared: cheers, worries, joys, questions, doubts, affirmations, fellowship, and food. We feel: blessed, loved, forgiven, prayed for, part of Faith Church, and part of the church universal. We hope: for life abundant, for blessings of the spirit unseen, to live lives closer to God and more like Jesus, for you to share the joy of a life group, for fruits of the spirit, to see the miracles God places before us, and to serve our community and world. *(Chuck Bell)*

Tuesday Night Women's Group

Our newly formed Elk Grove life group is just beginning to find its way. After a somewhat erratic start we have settled on meeting early Tuesday evening in member's homes. We are a small group of women of all ages - some married, some not. Some have young children, and others have adult children and grandchildren. We share the common bond of desiring the support of women who also want to deepen their relationship with God. Our meeting plan includes catching up with each other, discussing the sermon, and a time of prayer. In reality, we spend a lot of time laughing and just enjoying being together, but we usually make it through the discussion questions and always have time for prayer. You are welcome to join us! *(Terri Bacon)*

Thursday Morning Men's Group

We are a men's group and on average have five to six people attending. We don't claim to be experts or follow the questions, but we do have interesting conversations about how the sermons challenge our lives. We often break into current events or our personal experiences. If you work downtown or are willing to travel to the Capitol, we have room for you. We meet on Thursday mornings at 7:10 and are done at 8:00 a.m. sharp. *(John Rodriguez)*

Thursday Afternoon Mixed Group

We meet at the church at 2pm. We are a mixed group only for coffee and goodies, and for the discussion, the men meet in a classroom and the women meet in Room 2. Both groups deal with all the questions but only after going far afield into current events or personal experiences (the men's group wanders further than the women). Dick and Mary Patterson lead the groups.

Tuesday Evening Women's Group

The Tuesday at 5 pm life group has grown from four or five women to eight. We are a combination of new and old members in a middle-aged age group (remember 60 is the new 40). Some of us are retired and some of us still work. The location of our meetings rotates monthly among the members who want to host the meetings. Our friendships have grown and at the same time our spirituality and knowledge of the Bible is growing. We share our stories and the ebb and flow of our daily lives. The sharing comes from the questions from each sermon which spark a story to share, a concern to share or a joy to share. Recently, we have shared "a pot of tea" before we start our discussion. *(Glenda Arellano)*

Interested in joining a Life Group? We have about 20 groups currently meeting throughout the week. Call the church office for a schedule or go to our website www.faithpresby.org. Go to the Calendar page and look under Upcoming Events or go to the Spiritual Growth page and look under Adults.



Starve for Food so that Others won't Starve to Death!

Assuming it takes you two minutes to read this insert, 36 children under the age of five will have died by the time you have finished. 36 CHILDREN. And those deaths are from hunger, poverty, and hunger-related diseases – all completely preventable. The good news is that our youth group continues to do something about it by participating in **World Vision's 30 Hour Famine**.

The problem is huge, but the solution is not. Just \$30 a month –roughly \$1 a day – can help feed and care for a child in most developing countries. And the great news is; last year 29,000 children were dying a day of hunger related causes, this year it is 26,000. What we do is making an impact but the fight isn't over.

As students go 30 hours without food (starting Friday March 6th at school and ending March 7th with a Break-fast communion service) they'll get a taste of what it's like to be hungry, all the while reaching out to others in need. And as they do that, their compassion will grow: for people around the world, and right here at home.

Please help our youth group by: praying for the Famine participants, and for those they're working to save, supporting Famine participants with a donation. It's through your gifts that lives are changed forever, and joining us for the Break-fast Communion Service at 6:00pm on March 7th.

Thanks, and God bless!

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. For more information about World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, call 1-800-7FAMINE (1-800-732-6463), or visit www.30hourfamine.org.

Blanket Drive for 30 Hour Famine

Munchies and Crew are busy preparing for the 30 Hour Famine March 6 & 7 at the church. This is a worldwide event where youth fast for 30 hours and collect donations from sponsors to raise awareness about hunger and poverty.

In addition to working toward raising \$7000 to help feed and care for children, the youth will be connecting with the local homeless population during the Famine, including feeding them and taking part in fellowship with them. We'd also like to take them blankets - and that's where you can come in. Over the next few weeks, we'll be collecting any used or new blankets from the congregation. Just bring them to church and we'll have a box in the narthax.



Calling All Greeters!

Greeters Training will be Sunday February 22nd at either 10:10 or 12:10 (after whichever service you attend) in the sanctuary. Part of our agenda will be to talk about the new "Ask Me" center in the Narthex. Greeters will be asked to stay for 10 minutes after the service to answer any questions from new guests. Join us on the 22nd to learn more!

Rick Crow – Worship Elder

This profile is another in an occasional series about Faith's Elders and their responsibilities.



If you attend Sunday services, you're seeing the fruits of Rick Crow's labor as Worship Elder each week.

The Worship Elder oversees the many aspects of Sunday services, including organizing ushers, worship assistants, acolytes, and communion servers, arranging music, flowers, sanctuary decorations, bulletins, sound and pew maintenance. That also includes the preparation of special services, such as Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve.

Rick also kept session informed on the acoustics committee's hard work last year on improving the sound system in the sanctuary – a welcomed improvement for the many ears at Faith.

Rick and his family have attended Faith for 24 years. He said he was “honored to be asked for the opportunity to serve God and our congregation in such an important way.”

Rick and his worship committee work year round on goals to sustain and improve the quality of services. Some of the goals and objectives are: finding ways to use all five senses in worship, encouraging the use of name badges, encouraging fellowship after services, sharing spiritual experiences in ministry during the services, using a mixture of music from the choir, praise band and other music groups, and the use of youth in services.

He credits his committee of volunteers – Barbara Brown, Rhonda Hankey, Jeri Michelson, Kathy Pehrson, Audrey Sherfy, Jim Tracy, Betsy Butler and Pastor Jeff Chapman – who put a tremendous amount of time into details of the services. “The church and our services flow smoothly because of the inside work and time that many people give to Faith.”

Make A Joyful Noise Update

The sanctuary at Faith has had many significant changes over the past several months and many more are ready to be installed. The changes may have appeared subtle when in reality they have significantly solved the problems that prompted the campaign to improve the sound issues we have had since the sanctuary was built.



Many of you have commented how the sound has been improved with these new additions. The acoustics committee has spent a considerable amount of time in meetings, making decisions on selecting experts, evaluating bids and coordinating the colors of the products that have been installed.

Last week they had a meeting to review the plans and costs for the installation of the a new main sound system, purchase of new audio visual equipment and the new system to be used by the Praise Band. A new sound system is being selected to be installed in basically the same area where the sound board is today. There are plans for the installation of one or more screens in the sanctuary with projectors and a new moveable microphone system will be purchased for use by the Praise Band, outside in the patio area and perhaps at offsite locations.

This sound system will also cover the cry room and the nursery, allowing the sounds of the worship service to be distributed to these locations.

Because of your wonderful contributions to the sound program over the past several months there is enough money to cover these projects that will hopefully be completed by March. There is also money in the major property maintenance fund to cover the Narthex floor with indoor carpeting as the floor is worn out and needs replacement.

The next phase of this campaign involves the replacement of the organ, which we will address when the above work has been completed. Stay tuned.

Endowment Fund Provides for Church Development

Now known as the Church Development Fund Endowment of the Presbytery of Sacramento, this program's purpose is to provide money to meet new and major church development and improvement costs within our fast growing presbytery. One of the major aims of the program is to serve those who share concern for these objectives so they have a way to join in financially supporting this effort not only in the annual offering at the beginning of Lent, but in their future and testamentary planning as well. This is still an Endowment Fund since money received is placed in an endowment the income from which will be used help new churches become established, to help existing churches keep up with growing populations and handle needed major maintenance on aging facilities. This year's focus on the program and how we as members of this Faith Presbyterian Church can participate will be on March 1, 2009, when the annual Endowment Offering will be held.



Focus on the Big 5

It's no surprise that five key health factors that make you older and steal late-life independence. Which risk factors are they? Not cancer. Not cholesterol. The five top health factors that increase the likelihood you'll need help caring for yourself when you're older are smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and inactivity. Luckily, regular exercise can help take care of four of those risk factors. And if you don't smoke, you'll be able to exercise even more.

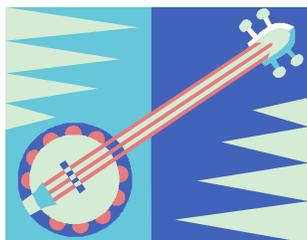
Faith Women's Retreat Opens Commuter Spaces

The Women's Retreat scheduled for February 27 thru March 1st has 10 commuter slots available. Commuter attendees will pay \$90 which covers all the retreat sessions and five meals at the Retreat Center. These participants are responsible for their lodging and first priority will be given to those on the waiting list. For those who have paid their deposit, the remainder of the registration fee is due now. The retreat location is the Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn. Any questions, please contact Ilah Turner at 206-4016.

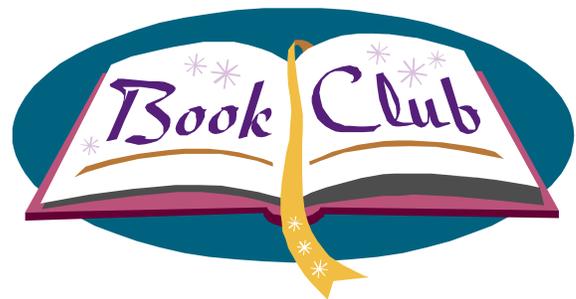
Bluegrass Music Featured at Presbyterian Women Meeting



Presbyterian Women is meeting Wednesday, February 25 at the church. Bible Study starts at 10 am and lunch at 11:30 will be provided. Our own Hal Johnson and his Bluegrass Band will be entertaining us. All women of the church are invited.



Faith Women's Book Club Update



When is the last time you read a good book? Come share your ideas. For convenience, we have an afternoon as well as an evening meeting. The afternoon club meets at 1pm in the afternoon on the third Mondays of the month. Our schedule follows:
February 16- *The Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs
March 16 - *Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
April 20 - *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
May 18 - *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls

Sunday*	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 22 Youth Small Group Sunday Greeter Training—10:10 am & 12:10 pm Session special meeting, 12:30 pm Meetings: Lay Ministry, CE Youth, 13:30 pm Faith Family Night 5:15-7:30 pm	23 Crafter's Club, 1 pm	24 BSF, 9 am-noon Understanding World Religions class, 7 pm NO MUNCHIES MEETING	25 PW Bible Study 10:30 am, Lunch 11:30 am Ash Wednesday: Dinner 6 pm, Worship 7 pm Urban Plunge meeting, 7 pm NO CREW MEETING	26 Choir rehearsal, 7 pm	27 Women's Retreat, Feb. 27-Mar. 1	28 <i>Presby News</i> deadline tomorrow
March 1 Food Closet Sunday Mission Trip information meeting, 10 am, room 4	2 Crafter's Club, 1 pm Outreach meeting, 6:30 pm Adult CE meeting, 7 pm	3 BSF, 9 am-noon Munchies, 7-8:45 pm Understanding World Religions class, 7 pm	4 Older Adult Discussion Group, 2 pm Lenten Service, 7 pm Crew, 7:30 pm	5 Choir rehearsal, 7 pm	6 30-Hour Famine begins	7 30-Hour Famine ends Spring forward tonight (more daylight!!!)
8 Deacons, 12:15 ARCO 6 pm Youth Advisors, 7 pm	9 Loaves & Fishes, 7 am & 11 am Crafter's Club, 1 pm Session, 7 pm	10 BSF, 9 am-noon Munchies, 7-8:45 pm Understanding World Religions, 7 pm	11 Lenten Service, 7 pm Crew, 7-8:45 pm	12 Choir rehearsal, 7 pm	13	14 <i>Presby News</i> deadline tomorrow
15 Noon - Lay ministry meeting CE Youth meeting	16 Crafter's Club, 1 pm Meetings: Personnel, 6 pm Fellowship, 7 pm Mission, 7 pm	17 BSF, 9 am-noon Munchies, 7-8:45 pm Understanding World Religions, 7 pm	18 Lenten Service, 7 pm Crew, 7:30 pm	19 Choir rehearsal, 7 pm	20	21

*Each Sunday worship services are held at 9 and 11 am. Children's Church and Sunday School for Preschool-5th grade are held during both services. Junior High Life Group meets during the 9 am service; Senior High Life Group meets during both services. Adult Sunday Class is from 10:15- 10:55 am in room 2.

Helpers this Month

	February 22	March 1	March 8	March 15
Worship Service	9 am	9 am	9 am	9 am
Worship Assistant	David Leader	Scott Pfeifer	Kathy Ellis	David Nash
Ushers	Steve & Collette Benson	Bert & Barbara Brown	Walt & Doran McDaniel	Don & Jan Sperling
Greeters	Larry & Noreen Freund	Jim & Betty Park	Kathy & Randy Ramos	Jeff & DiAnne Brown
Sound	Rick Horn	Bill Baker	Don Sperling	David Nash
Coffee Preparers	Kathy Ellis Marianne Jenkins	Dave & Teri Williamson	Mike Hankey	Donna Touros
Acolytes				
Worship Service	11 am	11 am	11 am	11 am
Worship Assistant	Greg Rapier	Anthony Lopez	Sarah Ainsworth	Nancy Remley-Johnson
Ushers	Dick & Betty McClure	Chuck & Brien Bell	Jarvis & Glenda Arellano	Renee Larsen Melodi Anderson
Greeters	Barbara & Bob Powell	Melodi Anderson	Debbie Barton Julia King	Chuck & Hilde Tetlow
Sound	Carroll Collier	Joe Parente	Kevin Roberson	Ken Finch
Coffee Servers	Pat & Kitty Tatro	Margaret Finch Mary Masterson	Paul & Betty Keller	Tom & Julie Busch
Tellers	Bob Connett Dick McClure	Kitty Tatro Jarvis Arellano	Jim Tracy Erwina Bush	Barbara Powell Marvette Swayzer
Acolytes				