



The Window

First Presbyterian Church of Stockton's Monthly Newsletter



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

October 2026

Echoes from the Season of Creation!

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water

that quenches them. (Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa NZ Prayer Book)

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live... Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:9 & 12

"The river of life flows from God our Creator bringing renewal, blessing, justice and hope. It can enter even the Dead Sea- symbolizing the most hopeless of situations- and bring it to life. Trees with food and healing can come forth in the desert. We are not abandoned. God can still find us in exile. The renewal and hope of the people is shown through the renewal of the earth- the emergence of biodiversity in plant and animal life. The river of life will transform what it touches and humans and nature will flourish together."

-From Pastor Ashley's Sept 13th Sermon titled *Stepping into the Living Water*

Where we have treated water as a commodity, teach us to receive it as a sacred gift. Where we have consumed without thought, teach us simplicity. Where we have used water without reverence, teach us to protect it as a gift entrusted to every generation and honour water as a source of life for all. Where we have been silent and tolerant of injustice make us courageous protectors of rivers, defenders of seas, and companions to those who suffer water injustice until justice and mercy flows like the river of life.

(from the World Council of Churches Season of Creation ecumenical prayer service)

"I hope each and every one of us will remember the living water within ourselves- those streams of mercy that run through the deepest parts of us that can love and reach out to others. Just like Dolly tells us it doesn't take much time to be kind and just like Fred Rogers tells us that we should be good neighbors and that we should love that part of us that's deep down. We have to find that place because that's how we love one another."

From Rev. Nathan Wheeler's Sept 20th sermon titled *Thirsty Land and Dry Ground*

"God could have had other ways of providing healing but chooses to work through the leaves, drawing creation and humanity together again and reconciling us just as we are reconciled to each other and to God. This beautiful gift of Earth that we get to call our home is not only our responsibility to steward and care for, but it is a conduit of God's redemptive and healing work for us and for our neighbors." From Pastor Ashley's Sept 27th sermon titled *Eden Restored*.

With Love, Pastor Ashley

NOVEMBER WINDOW

The deadline for submission of articles for the November 2026 Window is **October 25th.**

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

October 4 -- Cheryl
October 11 -- Carol
October 18 -- Jane
October 25 -- Sylvia

Worship Assistants

October 4 – Gail Herron
October 11 -- Craig Holmes
October 18 -- Doug and Cheryl Hunt
October 25 — Gretchen Loudon

Sunday School Volunteers

October 4 – Tola Eley
October 11 --
October 18 – Yeji Cha
October 25 – Cynthia Allison

If you are interested in serving with Hospitality, as a Worship Assistant, or as a Sunday School Volunteer, please contact the Office.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard McKee--October 11
Cynthia Allison--October 20
Sydney Buckley--October 21

Book Discussion and Brainstorming

MY BODY
IS NOT
A PRAYER
REQUEST

Disability Justice
in the Church
AMY KENNY

OCT 25 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

In response to our recent reading of Amy Kenny's book *My Body is Not a Prayer Request*, we will reflect as a church family on Disability Justice and discuss ideas and goals related to accessibility. No reading required- just come with an open mind, courageous heart, and a creative spirit!

October 11 Potluck

Farm to Fork Veggie Forward Dishes



**Please return
your pledge card
to help us plan
for 2027!**



World COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4th

All are invited to bring a bread representing one of our world's cultures to decorate our communion table. After the service we will enjoy the bread with any favorite accompaniments!



Meetings This Month:

October 3 SJPC Pride in the Park 11am
October 4 World Communion Day
October 11 Church Potluck-Veggie Forward Dishes
October 11-25 Hosting Family Promise
October 14 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm
October 19 Spiritual Growth Committee 4 pm on Zoom
October 20 Hospitality Committee 10:30am
October 21 Finance, Building and Grounds Committee 9:30am
October 24 Trunk or Treat 4-6pm
October 26 Session Meeting 9:30am
October 28 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

Weekly:

Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays
Evening Bible Study Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 5 pm



Truth Matters

How a Bible Mistranslation
Shifted a Culture

10 October at Carmichael
Presbyterian Church

Author and advocate Kathy Baldock will lead a time of learning and discussion of how the term "homosexuality" was incorrectly included in a Bible translation and how that single decision reshaped our culture. We are organizing a group to carpool to this event from Stockton. Please contact the office if you would like to go with us!



🌿 October Volunteer Opportunities 🌿

We have several exciting events happening this month, and we need your help to make each one a success! There are many ways to get involved, whether you can volunteer your time, provide a meal, or donate supplies.

🌿 SJPC Pride in the Park — October 3 | 11:00 AM–4:00 PM

We will be joining other local churches for SJPC Pride in the Park. We need volunteers to help staff and run our booth throughout the day.
Contact Pastor Ashley to sign up.

🏠 Family Promise — October 11–25

Our Family Promise families will be staying with us, and there are several ways you can help:

- Help with set-up and tear-down
- Serve as an overnight host
- Provide dinners for our guests
- Donate breakfast and lunch items for the families to enjoy during their stay

Please contact Cheryl Hunt for more information.

🎃 Annual Trunk or Treat — October 24 | 4:00–6:00 PM

Our annual Trunk or Treat is coming up, and we need volunteers to help make it a fun evening for everyone! We need volunteers to:

- Decorate your car and pass out candy
- Help with games and activities
- Help serve snacks

Contact Pastor Ashley to sign up!

We would also greatly appreciate donations of bagged, individually wrapped candy and other treats to share with our guests.

Whether you can volunteer for an hour, provide a meal, donate supplies, or help in another way, every contribution makes a difference! Thank you for helping us serve our community and make these events possible. ♥

Aaron and Natalie Roider welcomed a beautiful gift from God on August 31. Katherine Anne was born at 11:36am, weighing 6 lbs. and 19" long. We are all filled with joy, over such a precious little being and thank God for her safe arrival. Please keep Aaron and Natalie in your prayers, as they learn the ropes of parenting.



STARTING IN SEPTEMBER!
New Bible Study!
1st and 3rd Wednesdays
5-6:15 pm at Charlie's home
(contact office for address and gate instructions)
Pastor Ashley will lead with a similar format to our Thursday morning Bible study, featuring a meditative style of reading scripture called lectio divina, music, and prayer. All are welcome!

THURSDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY
10 AM IN THE GENEVA ROOM AT FPCS
Join us for a time of meditative Bible study, reflection, discussion, music, and fellowship.



First
Presbyterian
Church

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**WORSHIP SERVICE
TIME CHANGE**
Beginning October
4th, our Sunday
worship service will
begin at 10:30 am

*First Presbyterian Church is committed to loving and serving all people,
Including those from diverse generations, cultural and socioeconomic
backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and life experiences.
Whatever your story, you are welcomed by Jesus Christ
And by his church family.*