



The Window

First Presbyterian Church of Stockton's Monthly Newsletter

September 2026



Dear Congregation,

Every year during the Fall we embark on a season of stewardship. This intentional focus on assessing and committing our resources as a church family serves a few different purposes. First and most practically, it helps us to be able to plan for the coming year. Each person will be asked to estimate their giving for the next calendar year in the form of a pledge. As our treasurer puts together the budget for 2027, our estimated income from the pledges helps us to plan and prepare. It's never an exact science and giving may indeed be more or less than what was pledged, but this estimate gives us a general idea of what to expect. In the coming weeks, there will be a letter with an enclosed pledge card sent out, and pledge cards will be available in the Blue Room right outside of the Sanctuary. These cards can be returned to our office via mail or by placing them in the offering plate during our worship service.

In addition to the practical side of our financial preparation for the coming year, the stewardship season gives us a chance to talk about our vision as a church and how we put our collective resources to work for that vision. We talk about what we are doing with the tithes and offerings we receive so that our community can see clearly how their generous giving makes a difference. The generosity of our congregation goes far beyond money- stewardship season is a great time to think of all of the ways our community comes together to celebrate and spur us on to get involved. Ultimately this is a time to take inventory of our needs and resources as a church, expecting for God to guide and multiply our faithful giving as we offer ourselves in thanks and praise.

Our theme this year is **Launching into Our Future: Financing our Vision**. Like a spaceship rocketing toward the heavens, we are in a moment of launching into the future that God has for our church. Habakkuk 2:2-3 says:

*Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.*

*For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.*

Vision is a powerful thing. Vision is not necessarily an exact roadmap, but an aspirational picture of who we could be. It helps us imagine the heights that the Holy Spirit is leading us to seek. In the gospels we see Jesus showing us a vision of abundant life which is rooted in the love and justice and grace of God. As we embark on this stewardship season and consider the calling of our church in our particular context, what do we envision for the future of First Presbyterian? What stars are we endeavoring to reach as we set out for the joys and challenges which lie ahead in 2027 and beyond? We will have a chance to discuss and share as we consider how our resources might serve the vision the Holy Spirit is working in us. May this stewardship season bring us to new heights of faithfulness and vision for Spaceship First Presbyterian!

With Love, Pastor Ashley

OCTOBER WINDOW

The deadline for submission of articles for the September 2026 Window is **September 27.**

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

September 6 -- Sylvia
September 13 -- Carol
September 20 -- Carol
September 27 -- Jane

Worship Assistants

September 6 – Carol Dietrich
September 13 – Eleanor Lawrence
September 20 – Bill Alessio
September 27 – Janet Sepiol

Sunday School Volunteers

September 6 – Tola Eley
September 13 – Yeji Cha
September 20 – Cynthia Allison
September 27 – No Sunday School
If you are interested in serving with Hospitality, as a Worship Assistant, or as a Sunday School Volunteer. please contact the Office.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sylvia Cavanaugh -- Sept. 9
Janet Sepiol -- Sept 13
Nathan Alessio -- Sept 16
Kathi Yeager -- Sept 17
Autumn Alessio -- Sept 18
Bill Alessio -- Sept 30

**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.



MY BODY
IS NOT
A PRAYER
REQUEST

Disability Justice
in the Church
AMY KENNY

**BOOK STUDY
MONDAY
EVENINGS AT 7PM
ON ZOOM**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

**CHECK EMAIL FOR
THE ZOOM LINK**



OPEN THEME POTLUCK

September 13th

**Bring a favorite dish of any kind
to share!**



Meetings This Month:

September 8 Hospitality Committee at 11 am

September 9 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

September 13 Church Potluck "Open Theme"

September 10 Finance, Building and Grounds Committee 1:30PM

September 14 Spiritual Growth Committee 4 pm on Zoom

September 23 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

September 28 Session Meeting 10:30 am

Weekly:

Book Study at 7 pm on Zoom

Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays

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



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

September 1 - October 4

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Each year the World Council of Churches leads a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it with us. This year, the theme for the Season is "Living Water."

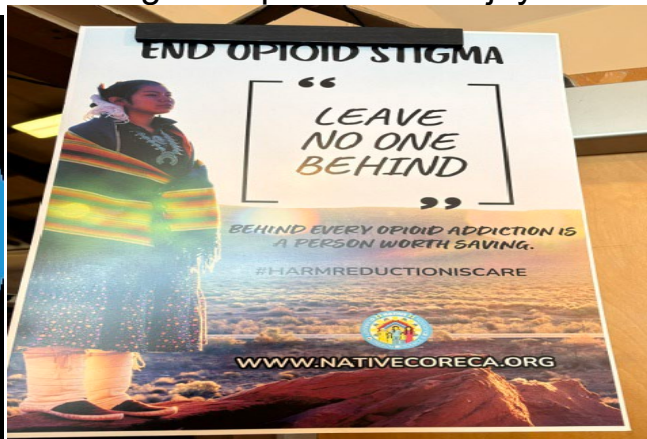
UOP Day Of Service 2026

We were blessed to have 36 student volunteers join us from the University of the Pacific and they spent the day helping us with many projects around the campus. They helped with cleaning and organizing the food pantry, preparing the rooms for our upcoming Family Promise visit, helping to clean up garbage around the property, among many other tasks. It was such a pleasure getting to know the students as we worked together and we really enjoyed having them here with us for the day.



Native Core Overdose Awareness Event

We were once again delighted to have Native CORE, a local community service agency serving the Native American and Indigenous community here in Stockton, host their Overdose Awareness and Remembrance Event here on August 29. The event promoted awareness, honored lives lost due to overdose and also education on dispensing Narcan. There were Native Dancers and Drum Circles and guest speakers to enjoy.



First
Presbyterian
Church

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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