

The Vision



A Community of Comfort and Care

Where:

- ~ Christ Reigns Supreme*
- ~ Worship Lifts the Spirit*
- ~ The Bible Touches Hearts & Minds*
- ~ Serving Brings Meaning*
- ~ Relationships Change Lives*

SEPTEMBER 2018



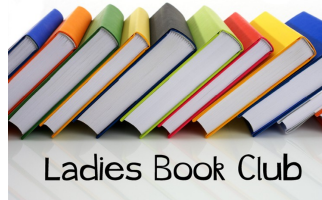
Mon. - Thurs. 7 am-4 pm
Friday 8 am-12 pm

TEAM LEADERS
SEPTEMBER 4TH@ 6:30 PM
FOX HALL

**Memorial for Donna & Dave
Coffman Saturday,
September 8th at 11:00 AM.**



Wednesday, September 12
Tanner Jacks, AG Mesa
8:00 AM



LADIES BOOK CLUB

September 13 at 11:30 am
– Fox Hall

September 13: *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult (Novel)

Interested in this book but can't come? It will be available in the church library to everyone AFTER September 13.

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are

Weekly Reminders

Wednesdays

★ Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM

Thursdays

★ Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Sundays

★ Worship Service 10:30 AM



Monthly Reminders

★ Ladies Bookclub
2nd Thursday @ 11:30 AM

★ Genealogy Club

No Meeting in September

★ Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

4th Thursday @ 12:00 PM

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PASTORS CORNER

This Thing Called Love

The Bible gives us all kinds of guidelines about behavior and relationships. We are told to be kind. To forgive. To avoid bad company. To shun pretense. Not to play favorites with the rich. We are told not to get into debt, to pay attention to the times and the list goes on. More than anything else, though, the Bible tells us that we are to love one another extravagantly and without end. The word most often used for how we are to love each other and the world is 'agape'. It is love in action, without judgment. What does that kind of love look like in our own lives in this day and age?

Several years ago an acquaintance of mine told me about going to a wonderful wedding of two people who had weathered a lot in their lives and finally found each other. It was a great celebration with a large reception and dance afterwards. There was a slightly raised dance floor. She and her friends were sitting at a table enjoying themselves when she saw a man in a wheelchair working hard to get the chair over the lip and onto the dance floor. Finally, he made it and began to move his chair to the

music, swaying this way and that. She felt compelled to go to him and ask him to dance. They danced together, she holding his hands and the chair rolling back and forth. When the music stopped he told her that when he was young he had been a professional dancer. There had been a horrible accident in which his wife, who was his dance partner, was killed and he was paralyzed. He said that when he was on the dance floor it felt like coming home. He then took my acquaintance's hand and said, "You have done me a great kindness." He smiled so warmly and they parted. That is agape. Love is choosing to be for others in ways that support, honor and heal.

The love that we are called upon to embody is a healing thing. And it is a faithful thing. I once led a retreat in the hill country of Texas and on my afternoon off spent some time walking in the beautiful aviary there. I noticed two small soft grey birds with white spots on their wings. One looked unwell. Her feathers ruffled, she shook and could not fly. The other never left her side except to bring water in his beak or to crush seeds and push them toward her on the floor of their enclosure. The keeper told me they were diamond wing doves. They mate for life. A cat had attacked the female and they were not sure she would survive. The male would never leave her until she either healed or died. Agape love has that same quality. It is a love that sticks through difficulty, a love that does the small things, a love that will not be driven away.

It is the love with which Christ loves us and that we are called upon to offer to others without end.

There are so many opportunities to be kind, faithful and supportive each day. This month I invite you to look for them. First thing in the morning, before you get out of bed, ask the Lord to show you the small ways you can love others today. Check in with yourself throughout the day to see what you have noticed. I'd love to hear about what you experience!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Eugenia

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. What do you think are the most important qualities of love?
2. Are there people that it is difficult for you to love? Why?
3. Who are the people who have offered you Christ's love? How might you thank them?

September Daily Scripture and Prayers

1st – Psalm 32:5 – *Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Dear God, sometimes I run so hard from the truth of my life. Help me today to stop and turn to you so that I may feel your peace, love and forgiveness. Amen.

2nd – Psalm 105:8 – *God is mindful of God’s covenant forever, of the world that he commanded, for a thousand generations*

Dear God, your patience is beyond my comprehension. You wait for me while I wander. You call to me when my life out shouts you. I am at the center of your heart. Thank you, God, for your faithfulness. Amen.

3rd – Psalm 7:17 – *I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.*

Dear God, your goodness never fails. Your kindness has no end. Your love brings my life to life. Thank you, God. Help me today to sing your praise wherever I go.

4th – Psalm 9:10 – *And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

Dear God, you are my life’s quest. I long to know more of you, to experience your peace and love more deeply. Thank you, God, for the ways you make yourself known to me today. Amen.

5th – Psalm 68:4 – *Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; lift up a song to God who rides upon the clouds—God’s name is the Lord—be exultant before him.*

Dear God, today I see you riding clouds and rainbows. In each color and texture of nature you declare your glory. Help me today to stay close to my gratitude and share it with you all day. Amen.

6th – Psalm 139:13-14 – *For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Dear God, help me today to celebrate the person you have made me to be. Amen.

7th – Psalm 92:2 – *Declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.*

Dear God, in the hurry or the waiting of the day, in the sweetness or the yearning of the night, help me to declare my unwavering love for you. Amen.

8th – Psalm 23:4 – *Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me.*

Dear God, take now my grief and fears and tune me to your presence that is my comfort and my hope. Amen.

9th – Psalm 44:1 – *We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old.*

Dear God, today we praise you for those who have told us your story. I thank you today for the first person to give me a Bible and the first one to love me in your name. Amen.

10th – Psalm 73:23 – *Nevertheless I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.*

Dear God, thank you for your presence and your guidance. Take my hand today and lead me exactly where you would have me go. Amen.

11th – Psalm 32:1 – *Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

Dear God, you have erased all my mistakes, covered my wrongdoing with your love. Thank you God for your grace. Help me to see myself as you see me. Amen.

12th – Psalm 105:3 – *Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.*

Dear God, I have seen your glory so many times in my life. Help me today to focus on you and rejoice in your faithfulness to me. Amen.

13th – Psalm 33:12 – *Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom God has chosen as a heritage.*

Dear God, today I pray for our nation. Help us to live your values in both our national and our personal lives. Amen.

14th – Psalm 92:14 – *In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap.*

Dear God, sometimes I feel like a spent blossom, fit only to be deadheaded. Thank you that for you time means nothing. Thank you for your promise that you are not done with me yet. Amen.

15th – Psalm 62:2 – *God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.*

Dear God, you are all I need today. Set me on your path and I shall walk in peace. Amen.

16th – Psalm 46:2 – *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.*

Dear God, no matter what happens today, I will rest in you. Your love is bigger than my problems, your grace more powerful than all challenges. Amen.

17th – Psalm 119:19 – *I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.*

Dear God, sometimes this world barely feels like home to me. In everything I face today, please make your ways clear to me. Amen.

18th – Psalm 59:16 – *But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

Dear God, I praise your name today for you have been my refuge in hard times. I rejoice that you are my strength and my redeemer. Amen.

19th – Psalm 68:6 – *God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.*

Dear God, you are my provision and protection. Help me to follow you so that I may live in the peace of your home. Amen.

20th – Psalm 71:18 – *So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.*

Dear God, how I long to spread your grace and glory to all of my family and friends. Help me today to find ways to love others in your name. Amen.

21st – Psalm 121:1 – *I lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?*

Dear God, today as I ponder the wonders of your creation, help me to remember that you are greater than anything I can see or

know. You are my help and all that I need. Amen.

22nd – Psalm 37:4 – *Take delight in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

Dear God, I do delight in you. Today I ask you to fill my heart with your desires for me and to show me how to respond to your gifts. Amen.

23rd – Psalm 135:1 – *Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; give praise, O servants of the Lord*

Dear God, sometimes it is easy to fall from praise into complaint. Sometimes pain rattles me and I cannot find my praise. Fill me with gratitude, O God, and return me to the way of praise. Amen.

24th – Psalm 119:124 – *Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.*

Dear God, today I rest in your love for me. Teach me something new about you today, O God, so that I may live more effectively as your servant. Amen.

25th – Psalm 77:14 – *You are the God who works wonders, you have displayed your might among the peoples.*

Dear God, signs of your grace and wonders are all around me. Everywhere I look I see your love. Help me today to respond to your love by loving others. Amen.

26th – Psalm 80:3 – *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Dear God, sometimes I feel beaten down and confused by the demands and challenges of these

days. Restore in me a sense of peace and hopefulness. Make me whole again. Amen.

27th – Psalm 119:160 – *The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.*

Dear God, sometimes the truth is hard to hear and harder still to live. Instill in me today a love of your ways and courage to follow where you lead. Amen.

28th – Psalm 107:1 – *O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.*

Dear God, there is nowhere that I can go to outrun your love for me. It is forever and unshakable. Help me today to live as one beloved and love as one who is loved. Amen.

29th – Psalm 62:8 – *Trust in him at all time, O people; pour your heart out before him; God is a refuge for us.*

Dear God, thank you for caring what I think and feel. Help me today to take refuge in you and to share with you all that is inside me. Amen.

30th – Psalm 107:43 – *Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.*

Dear God, I do not pretend to be wise. I simply rely on your love for me. That is enough. More than enough. Thank you. Amen.

white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders, or does she intervene?

Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Kennedy McQuarrie, a white public defender, takes her case but gives unexpected advice: Kennedy insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Conflicted by Kennedy's counsel, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong

With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers. *Small Great Things* is a remarkable

achievement from a writer at the top of her game.

October 11: *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philippe Sendker (Fiction)

ALL WOMEN are invited to join our Ladies Book Club. We meet in Fox Hall, at church at 11:30 am, the 2nd Thursday of the month. Bring your lunch! **YOU ARE FREE TO JOIN US FOR ONE OR MORE OF OUR MEETINGS.** Copies of our entire reading list are available on the church library cart. If you haven't come before, please give your email address to Cathy Brady (cathy.brady@gmail.com) so we can update you on any changes to the schedule.



THREADS OF FAITH CRAFTERS GROUP

Welcome All Crafters!

Threads **September 15th from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Come work on a project or learn a craft, pick up yarn or fabric, or stop by to drop off what you have made. All crafters are welcome, if you can make items we can donate locally or globally. Enjoy fellowship while you give to others. For more information, contact Caroline Cohen (860-268-6837).

cscohen45@gmail.com).



Save the Dates! Jubilee!
October 26-28, 2018

Don't miss a wonderful weekend of thanking God and celebrating the past, present and future of our church. We will invite members that have moved away, former pastors and lots of others to join the celebration which will include a BBQ for out of town guests, a celebration banquet and concert, and special Sunday worship. More info coming soon!



Some thoughts on Grief & Loss

By: Kristy Clark, CRE, Pastoral Assistant

Grief and loss are partners that I have come to know very well in recent times. Sometimes they roll over me like a wave in the ocean. Other times they just lurk in the background, waiting. They never just go away. They are a part of me that I carry as I go about daily life. Do you know someone who is hurting? Perhaps you are that someone. If so, know that you are not alone. Even Jesus suffered grief and loss. Jesus warned his disciples that in this life they would have trouble and grief but to be of good cheer for He had overcome the world. All of us suffer loss of some kind or another at some time in our life. Sometimes the grief is short lived but other times it lasts a lifetime. How can we be of good cheer in the face of such pain?

Any time we lose something of value we lose a part of ourselves. That loss can be something as visible as the loss of a loved one or a close friend. It feels as though we died along with them only we keep on living. Losing a dearly beloved pet can hurt almost as bad. Losing a job which is such a big part of who we are can cause a lot of worry and pain. How will we meet the bills? Deeper still is the question of what do I do now?

Sometimes we are shocked at how much it hurts to have to give up our possessions to natural disaster or downsizing. These things become a part of who we are and so in effect we are losing a part of ourselves. It is amazing how much it can hurt! Loss can come from less tangible things. The loss of innocence from so many things can last a lifetime. The loss of our health or youth can cause us tremendous grief. In fact, any time we lose something which is deeply a part of us it causes grief and sorrow. This is normal.

When we suffer loss and grief we need to reach out for comfort and support. As Christians we know that Jesus walks along side of us but sometimes we need someone tangible. It is then that we as Christ's children are called to come along side of those who are hurting. Sometimes it can be as simple as a card that says I am

thinking of you and am here for you. Other times it can be a hug that says I want to ease your pain. More times than not it means just listening as the hurt one pours out their grief. It is okay to need these things. They are God's way of reaching out and touching us to ease our way. People were meant for communion with God and each other.

If you are one of those who are hurting, please reach out to someone for comfort. Pastor Eugenia and I are available to listen to you if you need to just talk. As someone who is intimately familiar with grief I can listen without judgement and with empathy. Just know that you are not alone, that someone cares.



Family Album

In preparation for Jubilee we are creating a church family album to share. Karen Graves, our church photographer, will be contacting each of you to arrange a time to take some snapshots for the album. Get ready for your close ups!

Report on Annual Giving

Thank you for your faithful financial support for the mission of our church. Here is a summary of giving for our Operating Budget for the first half of 2018 (ending June 30):

Budgeted giving	\$ 152,610.00
Actual giving	\$ 135,860.00
Difference	-\$ 16,750

The budgeted giving amount is based on monthly projections to meet the annual church expenses. Our giving, however, does not follow that even distribution. Much of the giving comes in at the end of the year, making it imprecise to compare the income on a monthly basis.

With this giving pattern in mind, the church operates on a Fiscal Year budget running from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. You can see that with a calendar year budget, we would not have funding for the middle months of the year. Here is the giving summary for the *fiscal year* through June 30 (9 months):

Budgeted giving	\$228,915.00
Actual giving	\$240,185.00
Difference	+\$11,270.00

The final three months of the fiscal year, however, are the summer months, typically the

lowest giving period of the year. If we maintain only the average giving for the summer, the positive difference will become a shortfall of about \$9,000.

These data give you an opportunity to review your own giving plan to ensure you are on track to achieve your goals for the year. And if possible, please consider a small step up in your summer giving.

Remember that our church does NOT send reports of your giving on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. If at any time you would like to find out the amount you have given to date for 2018, please call Caroline in the church office. She is the only one who has that information.



We are working to make our wonderful church an even more caring community. We realize that different folk have different needs for care and connection.

Please take a moment to let us know your thoughts.

Thank you!

The Session

1. Would you appreciate a monthly contact from a deacon or care team? --- Yes ---No.
 If so, do you prefer
 --- a phone call Best time to call -----
 --- a text
 --- e-mail
 --- home visit
 --- a card or note
 --- chat at church
 --- I don't need monthly contact. I will let the church office know if I have a need for care.

2. Would you appreciate a visit from a deacon or care team member if you are in the hospital or experiencing a loss or crisis? -----Yes ---No.
 If so, please be sure that you let the church office know of your situation so we can respond.

3.---- I would like to be a part of a small group that meets regularly to get to know each other, enjoy fellowship and to create caring spiritual friendships.

Your Name _____



Beach Party
to celebrate Grandparent's Day*
Sunday, September 9 at 2:00 pm

**We will meet at a bbq pit at the Avila Beach
playground (look for the balloon).**

**Hotdogs, chips, dessert and drinks will be provided.
Please bring a side dish to share along with a beach
chair to sit in!**

**Hope you can make it to enjoy some fun, food and
fellowship on these beautiful central coast summer
days!**

***grandkids will be supplied**



**Presbyterian Women
Thursday, September 27, at Noon – Fox Hall**



Speaker will be Nancy Imwold, cofounder of South County People's Kitchen. This ministry serves lunch 365 days a year to the homeless and food challenged members of the Five Cities community at Living Water Community Church, 946 Rockaway Avenue in Grover Beach

Lunch will be served at 12 noon

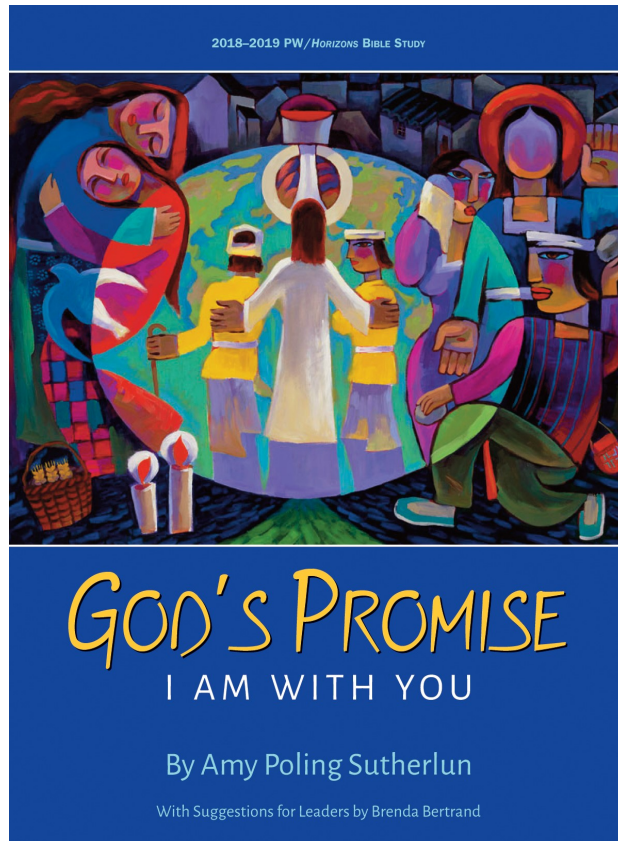
A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Women of the church and their friends are invited to attend.

Please join us!



Women's Bible Study Resumes in the Fall



Each year, a new Bible study is created especially for Presbyterian Women and used throughout the country. This year's study, **God's Promise**, will take readers on a journey through scripture to consider how God will be present in our lives.

This is a great opportunity to gather with other women of this church to study scripture, pray, and share community together. We have the following groups:

Trinity—meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm—Santa Maria

Priscilla—meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am—various homes

Ruth—meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am—Nipomo

Koinonia—meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 pm—various homes

Contact Kathy Nienhouse if you're interested in joining a group by calling (805-931-0755) or by email (knienhouse@yahoo.com). You may also signup at the table along with the Summer Potluck signup beginning July 29.

Sep 2018 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

nipomopres@att.net, Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12:15pm - Local Missions Team	27 6:15pm - Living Word @ Fox Hall	28 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	29 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox	30 9:30am - Bread Packaging @	31 9am - Banner Group	1
2 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12pm - Healing & Wholeness 5:30pm - SLO Jam	3 Labor Day	4 2pm - Jubilee Meeting @ Fox Hall 6:30pm - Team Leader Meeting	5 2pm - Memorial Setup 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox 7pm - Choir Practice @	6 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - People's Kitchen Food	7 11am - Donna Coffman Memorial	8
9 Beach Party BBQ/Potluck- 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens &	10 10am - Living Word Lunch	11 8am - Men's Breakfast @ Tanner 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	12 11:30am - Ladies Book Club @ 1:15pm - PWCT Meeting @ Fox 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox 7pm - Choir Practice @	13 9:30am - Bread Packaging @	14 10am - Threads of Faith	15
16 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12:15pm - Welcome Team	17 9am - Watercolor Society	18 VISION DEADLINE 4:30pm - Deacon's Meeting @ 6:45pm - Session @ Fox Hall 7:30pm - Finance Team Meeting	19 Watercolor Society Group @ Fox Hall 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	20 10am - Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox 7pm - Choir Practice @	21	22
23 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12:15pm - Local Missions Team	24	25 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	26 12pm - PW Luncheon @ Fox Hall 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox 7pm - Choir Practice @	27 9:30am - Bread Packaging @	28	29
30 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens &	1 6:30pm - Team Leader Meeting	2 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	3 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox 7pm - Choir Practice @	4 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - People's Kitchen Food	5 10am - Threads of Faith	6

Please visit www.nipomopresbyterian.org for a full description

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Mailing Address: PO Box 158~Nipomo CA 93444
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- September 4th, 2018 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Location: Fox Hall
Team Leaders Round Table
- September 8th, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Location: Sanctuary/Fox Hall
Memorial: Donna and Dave Coffman
- September 9th, 2018 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Avila Beach Playground
Beach Party to Celebrate Grandparents Day
- September 12th, 2018 from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
Location: Tanner Jacks, AG Mesa
Men's Breakfast
- September 13th, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Location: Fox Hall
Ladies Book Club
- September 15th, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Location: Fox Hall
Threads of Faith Crafters
- September 27th, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Location: Fox Hall
PW Luncheon

For a full color version of "the Vision" visit nipomopresbyterian.org

