

# *Faith Happenings August 2026*



## FAITH CHOIR

Do you love to make a joyful noise?  
Or just sing loudly?

On Thursday afternoons at 4:30 p.m., we gather to  
laugh, learn and practice music for our  
Sunday services.

Our Director of Music, Robert Reed,  
and all choir members invite you to join us to  
sing for the Lord!

### Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with  
singing.

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us,  
and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his  
pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with  
praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth  
endureth to all generations.

|                             |    |
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| Sunday                                                                                                   | Monday                                                                                                                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                  | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                                                      | Friday                                                                                             | Saturday                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                            |                                                               |                                                                                                    | 1<br>9:00<br>Men's<br>Breakfast            |
| 2<br>10:30<br>Worship &<br>Communion<br>12:30<br>Exploring the<br>Biblical Concept of<br>Justice Meeting | 3<br>10:00<br>Tai Chi for Men/<br>Women<br>11:00<br>Called Session<br>Meeting<br>1:00<br>Church<br>Nominating<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>4:30<br>Special<br>Olympics<br>Meeting | 4<br>12:30<br>Worship &<br>Discipleship<br>Planning Team<br>Meeting<br>2:30<br>Outreach<br>Planning Team<br>Meeting<br>4:00<br>Justice Group<br>Planning Team<br>Meeting | 5                                                                                          | 6<br>4:30<br>Choir Practice                                   | 7<br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED                                                                              | 8<br>8:00<br>Trout<br>Unlimited<br>Meeting |
| 9<br>9:00<br>Member Inquiry<br>Class<br>10:30<br>Worship &<br>Second Sunday<br>Lunch                     | 10<br>10:00<br>Tai Chi for Men/<br>Women<br>11:00<br>Mission<br>Planning Team<br>Meeting<br>1:00<br>Congregational<br>Care Planning<br>Team Meeting                             | 11<br>10:00<br>Blood Assurance<br>Blood Drive<br>4:00<br>Justice Group<br>Planning Team<br>Meeting                                                                       | 12<br>11:00<br>Baker Bible<br>Study<br>12:30<br>Library<br>Committee<br>2:00<br>FOT (Zoom) | 13<br>3:00<br>Bluebird Book<br>Club<br>4:30<br>Choir Practice | 14<br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED<br>11:00<br>Founders<br>Room<br>Reserved<br>12:00<br>Ladies' Lunch<br>Bunch | 15                                         |
| 16<br>10:30<br>Worship<br>12:30<br>Exploring the<br>Biblical Concept of<br>Justice Meeting               | 17<br>10:00<br>Tai Chi for Men/<br>Women                                                                                                                                        | 18<br>4:00<br>Justice Group<br>Planning Team                                                                                                                             | 19<br>9:30<br>reKindle                                                                     | 20<br>4:30<br>Choir Practice                                  | 21<br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED<br>9:30<br>Senior Center<br>6:00<br>Jewish<br>Community of<br>Blue Ridge    | 22<br>10:00<br>JCBR Torah<br>Study         |
| 23<br>10:30<br>Worship<br>12:30<br>Exploring the<br>Biblical Concept of<br>Justice Meeting               | 24<br>10:00<br>Tai Chi for Men/<br>Women<br>1:00<br>Women of Faith                                                                                                              | 25                                                                                                                                                                       | 26<br>11:00<br>Baker Bible<br>Study<br>12:30<br>Library<br>Committee                       | 27<br>4:30<br>Choir Practice                                  | 28<br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED                                                                             | 29                                         |
| 30<br>10:30<br>Worship<br>12:30<br>Exploring the<br>Biblical Concept of<br>Justice Meeting               | 31<br>10:00<br>Tai Chi for Men/<br>Women                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                            |                                                               |                                                                                                    | 2                                          |

# Worship & Discipleship Planning Team



## Women of Faith

We will be meeting the fourth Thursday of every month starting August 24th @ 1:00 (except Dec) . We will be studying Esther. Our mission project is Street Grace.—an organization that supports women who have been involved in human trafficking.



Tuesday Faith Group will begin on September 29th through November 3rd. We will continue our study of 1st Peter and continue on to 2nd Peter and complete that book November 3rd. Our sessions will be held on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. All are welcome! Max White, Chuck Huckleberry, Patty Morris/ facilitators

## Baker Bible Study



This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. Please contact Frances Young for more information.

## Worship & Discipleship Elders:

Greg Duncan  
gregwduncan58@gmail.com  
Max White  
jmaxwhite@comcast.net

## Congregational Care Elders:

Connie Griggs  
griggs.connie@gmail.com  
Bill Furtwengler  
bfurt9@gmail.com

## Mission Elders:

Sylvia Goodyear  
smgoodyear01@gmail.com  
Renee Lunney  
reneelunney@gmail.com

## Administration Elders:

Bill Young  
captainlds@aol.com  
Peggy Reich  
peggyreich1663@gmail.com

## Outreach Elders:

Sandy Cuppia  
doggylady171@msn.com  
Belinda Bennett  
Belindaandgracie600@gmail.com

## Summer Meal Program



The Summer Meal Program served 500 children and 251 families providing more than 48,000 meals and distributing over 58,000 pounds of food. The Family Bag Packing Crew packed 1,939 family bags, totaling 27,185 pounds of food. The Children's Bag Packing Crew packed 3,930 bags, totaling 23,580 pounds of food. The Produce Delivery Team made 1,567 produce bags, totaling 6,006 pounds of food. Faith contributes \$3,000.00 from our Mission budget each year to this program which receives no government funding. Thank you to all who volunteered to deliver and pack this summer.

Sylvia Goodyear

## **Thursday Faith Group**

When God doesn't Fix It by Laura Story is the Thursday Faith Group's fall study. We begin Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and continue every Thursday for 5 weeks. If you are interested in participating, please contact Greg Duncan ([gwduncan58@gmail.com](mailto:gwduncan58@gmail.com)) or Sylvia Goodyear ([smgoodyear01@gmail.com](mailto:smgoodyear01@gmail.com)). See the description of the study below:

### **When God Doesn't Fix It Laura Story**

Is it possible for our faith in God to deepen despite loss, heartache, struggle, and pain?

Worship leader and recording artist Laura Story's life testifies that God doesn't promise to save us from all hardship. No matter how hard we pray, sometimes our circumstances don't change.

Laura's own story took an unexpected turn when her husband, Martin, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The devastating news forever changed their lives and challenged Laura's belief in the little control she thought she had. Her discovery: that her struggles to accept her new situation ended up convincing her even more strongly of God's faithfulness and love.

In this five-session video study (DVD/digital video sold separately), Laura shares her deeply personal testimony and renewed hope to help us:

- Examine the promises of the gospel and what the Bible says about our experiences here on Earth.
- See how the hardships endured by some of the men and women of the Bible teach us how God works in our lives to bring us closer to him.

Understand that the possibility exists for a deeper intimacy with God, whose everlasting promises remain no matter what happens in this life.

**This study guide includes leader helps, video discussion questions, Bible exploration questions, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.**

#### **Sessions include:**

1. *Don't Be Surprised by Trouble* – Healthy ways of recognizing the existence of loss and pain without being paranoid or cynical.
2. *Best-Made Plans* – A closer look at human plans and God's plans and how they might be different.
3. *When God Doesn't Fix It* – How stories of imperfect lives and struggles can showcase God's faithfulness and what that means for us.

*Why? The Question on Replay* – Finding freedom in not having all the answers.

***A Better Broken* – How to change despite our unchanging circumstances**





At our beautiful Women of Faith brunch, Frances revealed our new study, “Esther” and we learned about our new Mission we will support. Thank you to the men of the church for serving us! Thank you to the loving hands that prepared the food and decorated the tables and thank you to Frances.

All are welcome to the 4th Monday of every month at 1:00 p.m. (except December) for a superb lesson and precious fellowship.



# Congregational Care Planning Team



Mark McLain, Susan Taylor, Frances Young, Linda Silva,  
Jane Gray Collier, Larry Giles, Steve Williamson,  
Liz Charbonneau, Lynn Hayes, Connie Griggs, Rita Oberle,  
Bill Brock, Belinda Bennett, Bob Goodyear,  
Janeese Glascock, Sherry Scruggs, Brenda Scruggs

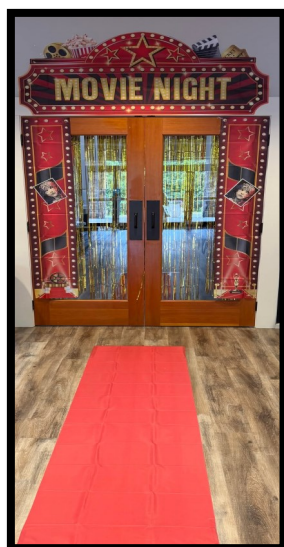


Connie & Randy Griggs,  
Frances & John Thompson,  
Diana & Al Gnann



## Second Sunday Lunch

Join us August 9th, following the  
Worship Service, for a delicious lunch of  
fried chicken (provided by Alan Schulman  
and June Stanford) in celebration of their  
upcoming wedding. Bring sides and salads  
and desserts! It is hosted by the  
Thursday Faith Group.



Movie Day  
and the  
showing of  
Les  
Misérables  
was an award  
winning  
afternoon.  
Best

Directors' Award went to the Congregational  
Care Elders; Connie and Bill F. (They would  
like to thank their team.) Best Set Design  
Award Winners are Drue and Sherri. The  
concession stand gets an award too!! Our  
Summer Learning Series will be tied to the  
movie.



## Ushers

### August 2

Chris Martinez  
Bob Wasielewski  
Liz & Roger Charbonneau

### August 9

Cynthia & Clark Chitwood  
Renee & Charlie Lunney

### August 16

Belinda Bennett  
Chris Martinez  
Liz & Roger Charbonneau

### August 23

Greg & Debbie Duncan  
Carol & Bill Furtwengler

### August 30

Jane Gray & Dwayne Collier  
Anne Williamson  
Nancy Goodson

## Counters

### August 2nd

Vickie Elwell  
Debbie Peterson

### August 9th

Lynda Fitch  
Phil Ray

### August 16th

Randy Griggs  
Peggy Reich

### August 23rd

Charlie Lunney  
Bill Young

### August 30th

Clark Chitwood  
Chris Martinez



**The Bluebird Book Club** will meet in August at Blue Ridge Adventure Park at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13th. Lynda Ray will facilitate **Twice** by Mitch Albom

**September 10: The Dutch House** by Anne Patchett; facilitated by Vicki Elwell

**October 8: More Than Enough** by Anna Quindien; Facilitated by Jane Gray Collier

**November 19:** Sharing books we like...

**December:** Christmas Party

Please contact [chris.martinez8258@gmail.com](mailto:chris.martinez8258@gmail.com) for more information.

*All are invited to attend our monthly meetings.*

### **LADIES LUNCH BUNCH**



Faith women enjoyed lunch & good fellowship at **The Pullman** (formerly Serenity) in downtown Blue Ridge. The next lunch bunch will be at ***Southern Charm*** in downtown Blue Ridge on August 14th at 12:00. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

# Mission Planning Team

**Please continue to save the plastic utensils** that you get with take out food. The ones wrapped in plastic with a napkin and condiments are perfect. We will be using these for the LLL project. The Mission basket is in the Narthex for collection.



## Save the Date

Saturday, October 3rd, we will have a combined breakfast of Men's Breakfast Group, Outdoor Property Maintenance Committee and Memorial Garden Committee, followed by a church grounds workday. Any questions, contact Peggy Reich at [peggyreich1663@gmail.com](mailto:peggyreich1663@gmail.com).

## Senior Center News



Good times at the Fannin County Senior Center. We made a patriotic flower while we visited and had lively conversations. We served a lunch of fried chicken, sides, and dessert. Please join us August 22 at 9:30 a.m. for our annual Luau! Always a lot of fun!!



A ribbon cutting was recently held for Georgia Mountain Health's new building. The building will be called the Steven Miracle Behavioral Health and Administrative Building. The building will allow additional providers and an incoming pharmacy. (Georgia Mountain Health is a nonprofit providing affordable healthcare to the medical uninsured.) Board members, Debbie Peterson and Patty Hampton, announced that Faith Presbyterian Church donated \$1,000.00 to the new Community Care Fund for the underinsured.



### SAVE YOUR CHANGE! JAR IN A CAR

Your contributions continue to go to the local Veterans Program. Glass jars for the cup holders in you car (to collect spare change) are available in the Narthex on the credenza.



Our yarn closet is really getting low. We are still knitting hats for the Snack-in-a-Backpack Christmas bags. (Last year we needed 700 hats). If you would like to donate yarn, we are not picky—just nothing too thick or thin. We would prefer no pastels as we don't know if a boy or girl will receive the hat. Just leave what you find/buy in the office.



We need wine corks!! Helping Hands and the Senior Center use them for a variety of craft projects. Please leave them in the office.



Faith Presbyterian Church USA  
1349 Bluebird Road  
Mineral Bluff, GA 30559



Tuesday, August 11th  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Faith will host a Blood Drive on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. To donate, please register using the QR code on the poster on the bulletin board by the Founders Room or sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.



## BLOOD DRIVE

GIVE LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL.  
with Blood Assurance

- Eat a good meal
- Avoid energy drinks
- Bring your ID
- Drink extra water



All donors that give blood will receive a \$25 edit: card! Cards Smallest Only, sent within 10 days of donation.



FOLLOW US FOR STORIES OF LOCAL IMPACT!



The bees are busy in the garden  
AND  
the Watermelons are starting to  
GROW!

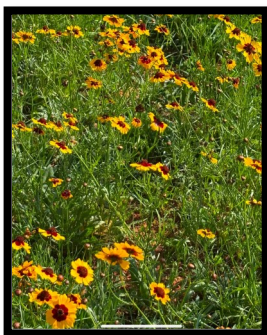


**SO BIG!**



### **Men's Breakfast**

The next Men's breakfast is scheduled for Saturday August 1st at 9:00 a. m. Come join for some good fellowship.



This year at Faith, we have added a hillside meadow. Not only are the flowers beautiful, they also provide food and shelter for insects, especially the honeybees in our two beehives. Wild flowers help prevent erosion and lessen the amount of mowing needed at our church



If you are interested in helping with the church garden, please contact Sally Crawford [shcrawford52@gmail.com](mailto:shcrawford52@gmail.com) or Teri Charron [sweetwatergsp@gmail.com](mailto:sweetwatergsp@gmail.com).

### **Men and Women's Tai Chi**



Classes will continue throughout the summer months. Men and Women's class start at 10:00 a.m. each Monday.



The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service to others.

# Outreach Planning Team



Susan and Mark Taylor in Serbia.  
Faith rocks all over the world!

Sandy and Max White left a Faith rock in Orange Beach, Fl. Keep sending your rock pictures. It's fun to see where they are.



## Faith Directory



Updated directories are available from the church office.



Whatta ya have? whatta ya have?

Coming home from vacation the Meyers left a rock at Atlanta's iconic Varsity. MMMM mmm!



# Administration Planning Team

## **For Your Information**

Our quarterly and annual giving statements are now emailed to each giver and only sent by USPS for those without an email address.

## **Attention!**

**All articles or information for the newsletter needs to be emailed to:  
newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org.**

**Please don't use personal email/text to  
submit for the newsletters.**

**Deadline for newsletter submission items:**

September-August 21  
October-September 23  
November-October 23  
December-November 20



Prayer requests for immediate needs relating to persons directly connected to members and friends of Faith are circulated via e-mail and others are included and published in our weekly and monthly newsletters. Prayer requests are only shared with permission

**For prayer requests, please email or call Rev. Susan Haynes,  
678.697.0822 or  
susan.haynes@faithpresbyterianusa.org**

|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bill Brock</b>                                  | Bill had extensive back surgery on Weds, July 22, at Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta. Bill did well during the surgery and he was released from the hospital on Saturday.                                                                        |
| <b>John Thompson</b>                               | Update: John had his second immunotherapy treatment on Tues, July 21. The issues with the NG tube continue to be addressed. Please pray for John's stomach to "wake up" so he can begin eating again.                                       |
| <b>Judy Evans</b>                                  | Judy, who lives in Gainesville, will have surgery Mon, July 27, for stents for a major blockage in her heart. Judy asks for prayers that all goes well.                                                                                     |
| <b>Sonya Burleson</b>                              | Update: Sonya was taken to Newton County Hospital on July 22 with a suspected stroke. Thankfully, she did not have a stroke and seems to have recovered well from the episode. She has been placed on blood thinners and other medications. |
| <b>Hailey Hicks,<br/>granddaughter of Kim King</b> | Update: Hailey has been released from the hospital and is awaiting medical clearance from the Navy so she can fly home to Connecticut.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Jenny Morrison, former<br/>member of FPC</b>    | Update: Jenny has done very well through the first two infusions of chemo and can see and feel that it is working to shrink the swelling she has experienced in recent months. Jenny wants Faith to know how much she appreciates our       |

*We lift in prayer those with ongoing health challenges and who appreciate our continuing prayers: Virginia McPhee; Larry Giles; Bobbie and Sumner DeWolf; Ryan Wheatley; Susan Learn; Sandy Gagliardi, sister of Patty Morris; Thomas Boulware, dad of Sherri Daniel; Cynthia Maude; Cynthia Salamone. Carol Smith; Melinda Mathews, sister of Renee Lunney; Jim Crawford; Ruth Davis; Joe Oberle; Dianna Gnann; Peggy Donellan; Judy Mascho; Tony Brown; LaVaughn Ferris; Vicki McKenzie; Therese Howell; Fran Inghram; Virginia McPhee.*