



# Faith Presbyterian Church Happenings, Groundbreaking Edition!

November 26, 2018



Updated news and other resources available online at: <http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org/>

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**MONDAY, November 26**

Church Office – Peggy Reich and Elaine Whitley

1:00 Women of Faith

3:00 Decorate the Chrismon Tree

**5:30 Choir Rehearsal**

**TUESDAY, November 27**

Church Office: Janice Cary

**WEDNESDAY, November 28**

Church Office: Sylvia Goodyear

**Noon-1:30 Advent Lunch and Learn**

5:30 Cantata and choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, November 29**

Church Office: Lynn Hayes

Food Bank: 10-12 Bud and Treva Wheatley

1-3 Nancy Goodson and Carole Ulnick

**FRIDAY, November 30**

Church Office: Treva Wheatley

5:30 Jewish Congregation Service

**SATURDAY, December 1**

9:00 Men's Breakfast at Bumblebee's

Merry Maids: John Thompson and Chuck

Huckleberry

2:00 McCaysville Christmas Parade –parade

participants, be at church at 11:45 or at Douglas Park by 12:30

**SUNDAY, December 2**

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

10:30 Worship Service and Lord's Supper

2:00 Theater Outing, Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street

**MONDAY, December 3**

Church Office: Peggy Reich

Worship Attendance November 25: 96

Groundbreaking Attendance: 74

December Head Usher: John Thompson

Ushers for December 2: Brenda Scruggs, Sherry Scruggs, and Terri Charron



**We broke ground on Sunday, for our new church building on**

**November 25, 2018.**

**Photographs on Facebook and in today's Newsletter.**

**Look for the roll out of the video of the Groundbreaking, coming soon!**

**See these videos for a history of our church development.**

**Chapter 1 - Genesis of Faith Presbyterian**

<https://youtu.be/q1rA0UGcNBM>

**Chapter 2 - New Church Development**

<https://youtu.be/jnIZMN75YrM>

**Chapter 3 - Building A Church Community**

[https://youtu.be/DYrHQ\\_9yYuE](https://youtu.be/DYrHQ_9yYuE)



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## Worship Information at Faith Presbyterian Church

### Advent and Christmas 2018



**This Wednesday, November 28, 2018**

**Advent Lunch and Learn, Noon – 1:30 p.m. at the Church**

**DRAW NEAR to Wonder**

**Soup, bread and dessert for lunch and a study covering the first Sunday of Advent**

**The Sunday after next.... December 2, 2018... The First Sunday of Advent**

**DRAW NEAR 1. Hope**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 I Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36

Sermon Title: “Raise Your Head”

The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated and shared.

**The Sunday after next.... December 9, 2018... The Second Sunday of Advent**

**DRAW NEAR 2. Peace**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Scripture Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 1:57-79

Sermon Title: “Prepare the way”

9:00 a.m. Discovery Class

Reception of New Members

Second Sunday Lunch

Our next **Discovery Class** is scheduled for this Sunday, **Sunday, December 9, 2018**. If you would like to discover more about the life of Faith Presbyterian Church, or are ready to be welcomed as a member, please contact Pastor Jim Simpson [Jim.Simpson@tds.net](mailto:Jim.Simpson@tds.net) and plan to attend the Discovery Class, a one Sunday introduction and welcome to Faith Presbyterian Church, including a welcome to the congregation during the 10:30 a.m. Service of Worship.



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## From yesterday's sermon: "Testifying to the truth"

".... The two kingdoms represented by Pilate and Jesus inhabit and exist in the same temporal space, in this temporal space, in this time and place, in this world. As followers of Jesus, the Jesus who poured out His life and love to change and transform this world, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we bear witness that force, might, and violence are not the ultimate currency in this world but instead we affirm the primacy of love.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., once wrote concerning unfettered power and the use of violence,

*"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes [on]. Returning violence for violence, multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."*

Today as we mark the conclusion of another liturgical year in celebrating Christ our King, and as we gather together to break ground on our new church building, I invite you to take stock and look forward by reaffirming that the Lord we worship, Jesus whom we follow, is the Savior who brings light – light to our lives, light in our world, light for all nations, light to and for all people.

Taking stock of this past year we can certainly identify moments, days, occasions where we shared and reflected the light of God's love in Jesus Christ for each other and for our neighbors in this community and in places near and far around this world to which God is forever committed.

By the sharing of your gifts you provided food and clothes and hope to children and young people and adults.... You did this in Fannin County and around our entire area, at Thornwell Home, and all the way to Zambia... And when you did such things you did them for your King Jesus.



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By sharing your time and patience and care, in a real way by sharing your very life, you offered healing and hope to people who were grieving or hurting or alone.... People within our fellowship, people seeking a new beginning to their life of faith, people seeking a new connection with a church, people fearing for their future... And when you acted in these ways you cared for your King Jesus.

By opening these doors, as wide as they can go, by making space for people, by squeezing as many as possible within our walls, by expressing warmth, by extending a hand or a hug, by having a welcome for all you drew people forward in their love for God as they united with the life of Faith Presbyterian Church. And when you shared such a welcome you welcomed your King Jesus.

By committing your resources to support and develop the continuing ministry of this church **at the same** time as devoting additional resources so that we have been able to craft and design and now get ready to build the new church building as a base of further service to our neighbors, an expression of our service to God, you prepared the way forward... And as you made your commitment you committed to and delighted your King Jesus.

As 2018 has proceeded the number of people participating in the life of this church has increased. This participation has been seen in the expanding number and range of people sharing in the worshiping congregation Sunday by Sunday; in FaithGroup, Study Group, and churchwide studies – during Lent, in our Summer learning series, “Getting your Ducks in a Row before you go” it has been a joy to see so many people join together to find help and meaning in studying scripture and considering how to live out our faith day by day. Three weeks ago today, so many of you, on behalf of all of us, made common cause with our Covenant brothers and sisters in the Jewish Community when in the aftermath of violence and murder at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh we stood together, we grieved together, we committed our lives to the God we trust.... In all this your King Jesus rejoiced!

Part of the liturgy that we provided and was included in our shared Memorial with our Jewish friends on November 4 was a hymn written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Today I wish to use



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another of her hymns written for Christ the King Sunday to conclude this sermon. These words, her words, speak to us of our Savior, Jesus Christ and of what we know Jesus our King would lead us on to do and be, and I am sure these words can further guide us forward in the work God has for us to do and in how it is God wishes us to live:

**“Our Lord, you stood in Pilate’s hall, His judgment to endure.  
Yet all he ruled would one day fall; You reign forevermore!**

**You are our King and yet you said It’s not by sword or might;  
Where truth is lived and love is spread, Your reign comes into sight.**

**Where people live in deep despair, Forgotten, hurt, alone,  
We hear their urgent, whispered prayer: “When will your reign be known?”**

**And where your Christian church today Is mighty, rich and strong,  
Lord, may we not forget your Way, Nor lose your kingdom’s song.**

**“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done” Not just in heaven above;  
May we on earth obey your Son, Who reigns o’er all in love.**

**“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done” Not just in heaven above;  
May we on earth obey your Son, Who reigns o’er all in love.**

It is the Jesus who reigns over all in love that we intend, and will serve and follow; it is the will of God we will seek to always obey, and by the Holy Spirit’s leading and empowering we will be that church and people who will forever rejoice in God’s love for all. Amen.”



## Advent Events and Opportunities

There are many ways for you to celebrate this Advent Season –Draw Near to our Lord and Savior.

**Advent Devotional** “Draw Near” Advent Devotional booklet is NOW available  
**Advent Lunch & Learns – each Wednesday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 19 at 12 noon**

Draw Near as we fellowship with soup, bread, and dessert and enjoy an Advent lesson with Pastor Jim.

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING ROOM.**

**Cantata – December 16 at the 10:30 worship service and at a 5:00 performance**

Draw Near and enjoy an inspiring worship performance, *Christmas Glory*.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24 at 5:00, Prelude of Music from 4:30 p.m.**

Draw Near in song, praise, and worship, welcoming the Light of Jesus.

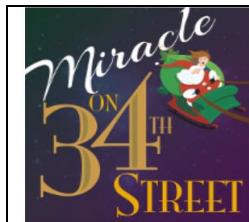


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**Stewardship Response - Just a note to say Bob Goodyear our Financial Secretary has been traveling. Look for a further update this incoming weekend!**

"Thank you to all who have and will make a pledge for 2019. For those who have yet to communicate their commitment to the church for 2019, we look forward to hearing from you."



**Miracle on 34th  
Street**

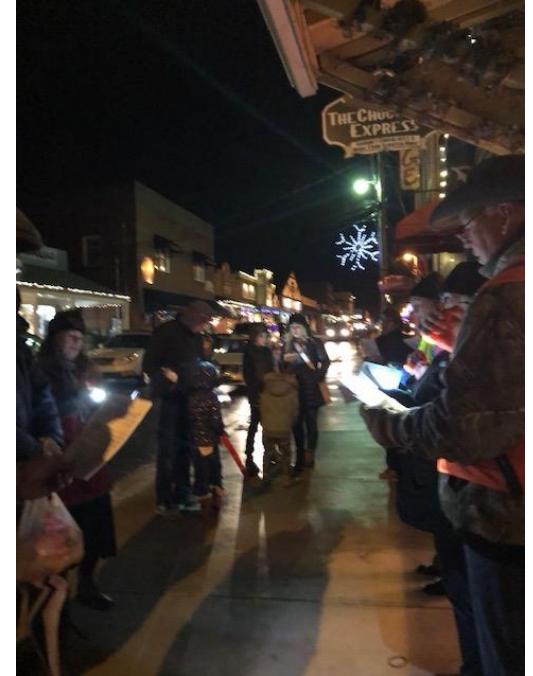
**Sunday, December 2  
2 p.m. Matinee**

Outing to see this classic Christmas play at Blue Ridge Community Theater.  
Tickets have been ordered.

## Mission and Outreach

**Christmas Caroling in Downtown Blue Ridge November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

We started out as a merry band of 10 - but grew to around 25 even in drizzle!





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## Light Up Blue Ridge Parade



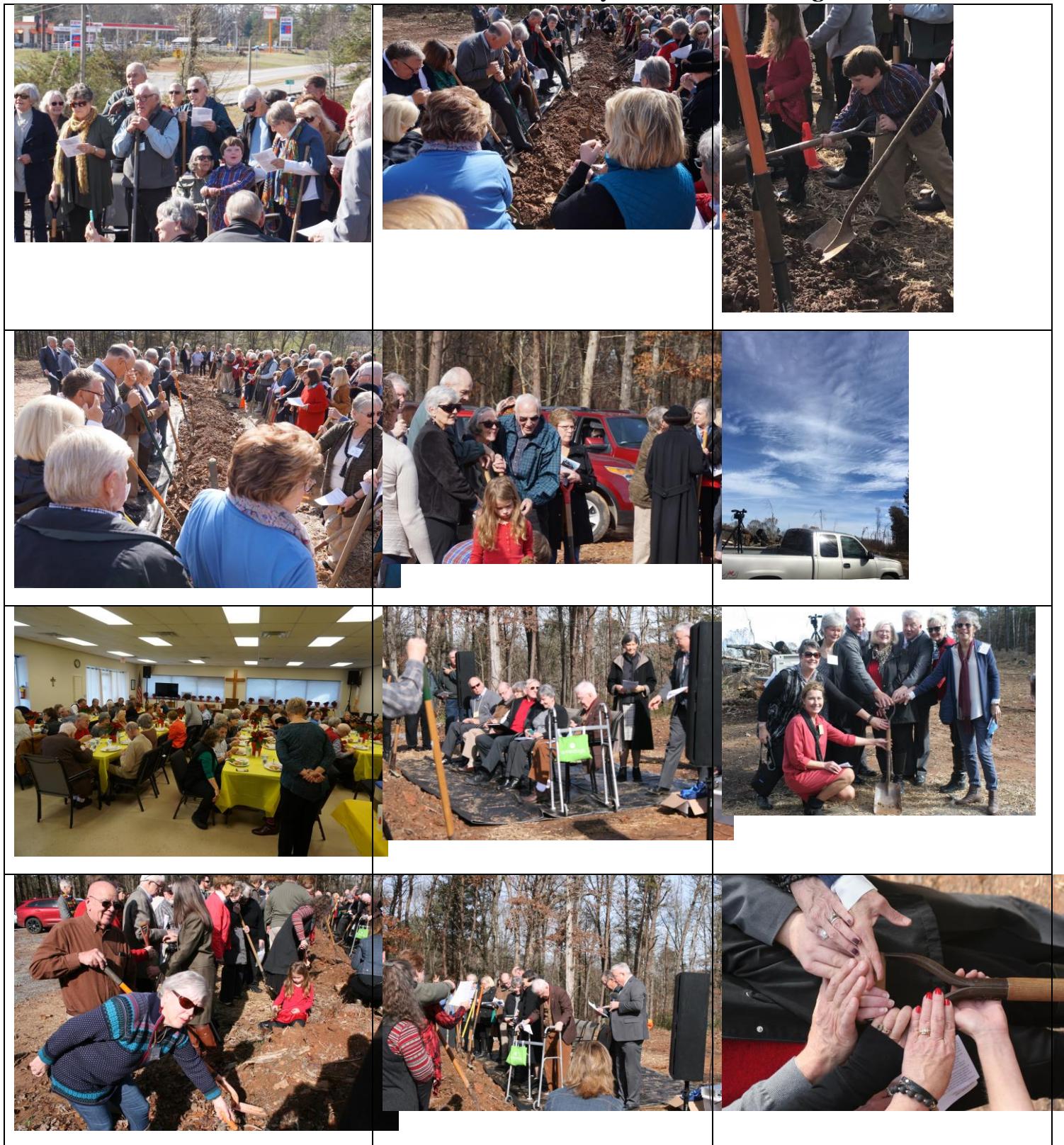


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## Groundbreaking Ceremony, Sunday, November 25, 2018

(Photographs courtesy of Mary Kaye Bailey, Gary Lazenby, Patty Morris, Peggy Reich and Barbara Schmus. Look for the video from Jim and Sally Crawford – coming soon!)





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## LITANY OF DEDICATION

“For everything there is a season,

**All: and a time for every matter under heaven:**

“A time to break down, and a time to build up.”

**All: “A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together.”**

*Charter members:* “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

In the name of God, our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sustainer:

**All: We gather to break this ground and commit ourselves  
to creating new opportunities for people to know and be drawn to God.**

We stand on this sacred ground now to be dedicated to Christ, the Head of the Church.

*Members of New Building and Capital Campaign Committees:*

We have and will work that this new building  
will purposefully bear witness to our faith within this community.

*The Session:* We will plan that this building will be a safe place where God’s people are fed spiritually and physically.

We pray, and ask all to pray, that this building will be a place of grace where all will be welcome.

**All: We are grateful this building will serve as an invitation to worship,  
a school of discipleship, a welcoming place,  
a center for prayer, and care and compassion extended to all.**

*The Rev. Joan Gray:* We gratefully acknowledge the faithful stewardship of the members and friends of Faith Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Cherokee Presbytery, the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program, and all our sisters and brothers in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Church Universal.

**All: With grateful hearts we commit ourselves to the continual leadership, the necessary planning,  
and the prayerful financial support to complete this project.  
With grateful hearts we praise you, O God. Amen.**

## Groundbreaking Day TOMATO BASIL SOUP

**2 cans (28 ounces each) crushed tomatoes**

**1 can (14.5 ounces) chicken broth**

**18 to 20 fresh basil leaves, minced**

**1 teaspoon sugar (ok to use a sugar substitute)**

**1 cup heavy whipping cream**

**1/2 teaspoon minced garlic**

**1/2 cup butter**

**In a large saucepan, bring the tomatoes and broth to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 10 minutes. Add basil and sugar. Reduce heat to low; stir in cream and butter. Cook until butter is melted.**

**Yield: Nine 1-cup servings**

**From Carl Riggs**



Soup Servers: Doris Riggs and Barbara Schmus



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## Kiwanis Christmas Parade McCaysville/Copperhill December 1 at 2:00pm

Theme: Christmas Around the World. If you are wearing a costume, be at our church by 11:45 to get dressed. If you are a walker, you can ride from our church also. OR if you may come directly to Douglas Park on Tennessee Avenue by 12:30. If you have questions, call Sylvia Goodyear at 404-313-0063.

## Mission and Outreach

**Christmas gift collections:** Mission and Outreach is collecting gifts for children at the Crisis Center *to give their mothers* for Christmas. The children select the gift from our donations. We also collect gifts for the residents of Pruitt Nursing Home. For the nursing home, lap blankets, toiletries, large print puzzles, hats, socks and gloves are suggested. These items should be brought to the church no later than December 16<sup>th</sup>. None of the gifts should be wrapped.



Faith Presbyterian is also collecting **new, unwrapped toys** for ages birth to 17 years via Toys for Tots. There is a Toys for Tots box in our gathering room. They accept larger items such as bicycles but do not take computer games.



The Lake Blue Ridge Detachment of the Marine Corps League is the local agency that manages the Toys for Tots program in Fannin County. Last year this group provided toys for 792 children in our county. The local Coordinator is Jim Brumbelow. **The last pickup date for the Toys for Tots box at Faith will be December 17, 2018.**

Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is an IRS recognized not for profit charity. The Foundation was created at the behest of the US Marine Corps. They have provided support for Toys for Tots since 1991. The mission of the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.



**Family Connection Opportunity--Food Bank volunteers:** For all community-minded folks! For everyone interested in volunteering, there is a food handling class which new volunteers will be given later on. You may work before you receive the training. Registration is now online at [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) but I have been using the church signup sheets and registering Faith Presbyterian. If you need to get in touch, my contact information is **Hilda Giles [hjthebb@gmail.com](mailto:hjthebb@gmail.com) 770-605-0040**. The food bank is located just off Ada Road on Fannin Industrial (about 5 minutes from church).



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## Children's Church Schedule for December

12-2 Frances Young and Elaine Whitley

12-9 Debbie Peterson and Ann Rand

12-16 Patty Morris and Jeannine Lazenby

12-23 Doris Riggs and Treva Wheatley



[\*\*Click to get to the Faith Facebook page\*\*](#)

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### **KNITTED HAT UPDATE:**

Knitted Hats Update....Our goal was 429 hats & WE DID IT! - AND THEN SOME!!

Thank you to my Faithful Knitters- Doris Riggs, Frances Thompson, Sylvia Goodyear, Terri Charron, Candy Frank's

mom - Marilyn, Kathy Cardwell's friend - Kathy, and Snack in a Backpack volunteer - Nadine.

Thank you for the overwhelming donation of yarn - especially Judy Evans, Sherry Scruggs,

Brenda Scruggs, & St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Our hats will be packed in Snack in a

Backpack holiday bags on December 12th. I'll be sure to get a picture!!

Merry Christmas! Kim King



**Women of Faith Meets TODAY, Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>:** The 2018/2019 study, Twelve Women of the Bible, started, August 27 and will proceed the 4th Monday of each month (except December) Next meeting January 28. Books for the new study are available for \$5 from the church office, Frances Young, or Patty Morris.

**Online Church Directory** (Please note the church is transitioning to a new database to handle membership and contact information. In this period the online church directory will no longer be updated. Stay tuned for updates. If you have any experience using the database, Microsoft Access, we would love to hear from you, email Bob Goodyear [rrgoodyear@mindspring.com](mailto:rrgoodyear@mindspring.com) )



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Would you like to sing in the Faith Christmas Cantata to be held on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>? “The Glory of Christmas,” this year’s music, will be practiced at the beginning of each choir practice. You are welcome to stay for the first part or all.



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**Interested in singing in the choir? Just call or email Kathy Cardwell at [kathycmac@gmail.com](mailto:kathycmac@gmail.com) or at 828-361-0007 for more details.** Kathy Cardwell, our Music Director, is also able to offer private piano and voice lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Church.

Contact Kathy to discuss further.

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The New Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee continue their work. Members of the committees are:

Reverend Simpson serves, ex-officio, both committees.

New Building Committee (NBC)	Capital Campaign Committee (CCC)
Bruce Burn	Janeese Glascock
Candy Frank	Bill Green
Tim Huffstetler	Tom Barrentine
Jim Reich	Grace Thomas
Carl Riggs	Rick Borden
Barbara Schmus	Carl Riggs
Bill Young	
Catherine Branch	
Rita Oberle	

**New Building Committee...** Asks for your continuing prayers for wisdom and guidance as it enters the “value engineering” phase of its work, reviewing the initial and alternate pricing, and working to ensure that we get the best value and most sensible options.



## **Day by Day, Faithfully Forward**

**Some highlights and ways to be involved.**

December 1	Saturday McCaysville Christmas Parade. We need folks to dress as Mary, Joseph, and Wise Men for float and arrive at 1:00
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## Advent 2018 at Faith Presbyterian Church

**Sundays:** Weekly Worship Services at 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesdays: Lunch and Learns Noon** – 1:30 p.m. Sign up in Gathering Room

**Christmas Cantata** – December 16 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** 5:00 p.m. Monday December 24<sup>th</sup>. Prelude of Music from 4:30 p.m.

**\*\*Church Newsletter:** Email articles and photos for the newsletter to [faithpcblueridge@gmail.com](mailto:faithpcblueridge@gmail.com) by 10 AM on Monday for publishing in that day's Faith Happenings.

**Prayer Requests:** During office hours (M-F, 9-1), please call the church office or at other times, please email or call Candy Frank at [cmwfrank@aol.com](mailto:cmwfrank@aol.com) (706) 632-5920. Prayer requests for immediate needs relating to persons directly connected to members and friends of Faith are circulated via email and others are included and published weekly in the Prayer List circulated via the Newsletter.

Name	Requestor	Reason
Judy Evans		Please uplift Judy in prayer. She fell Thanksgiving afternoon and broke her hip, the one she had previously broken, and underwent surgery Nov. 24 at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta. Prayers for her complete recovery are appreciated.
Gerrie Jones		Gerrie is dealing with a case of shingles; please pray for healing for her.
Maggie March		Maggie asks for prayers that the doctors will soon discover the reason for her frequent seizures that she has been having. They are Grand Mal seizures and she is losing consciousness and blacking out for hours at a time with no warning. The thoracic surgeon has referred Maggie to a radiation oncologist for treatment for the spot on her lower left wedge of her lung that is remaining. She sends praise and thanks for healing of her blood clots and resolution of internal bleeding from coumadin
Victor Christian, Jr. and the Huckleberry Family		The congregation extends its sympathy and offer its prayers to Chuck Huckleberry and his wider family: Chuck's uncle, Victor Christian, Jr., died at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at his home in Lexington, VA. Beth and Chuck ask for our prayers for comfort for Victor's family, particularly his wife Melba and daughters Sarah and Lisa.
Victims of California's Camp, Woolsey and Hill wildfires		Our prayers are needed for all those affected by ongoing California wildfires, and for all the workers providing aid and restoring services to impacted areas. Please keep them all in your prayers. Several at Faith have family and loved ones in the affected areas. Prayers are greatly appreciated
Janis and Jack Burel	Judy Evans	Please pray for Judy's sister, Janis and for Janis' husband Jack Burel. Jack began his second course of chemotherapy on November 7th for diffuse liver cancer.
Peggy Zinsli		Prayers for Peggy for ongoing pain management and health issues. Through her doctors may they find the right levels of medication to ease pain without migraines and regulate thyroid. She has a November appointment with a neurosurgeon.



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Nance Huish		Our continued prayers for Nance's numerous health issues are appreciated.
Virginia McPhee		Please continue prayers for Virginia as she deals with various health issues. Virginia very much values all the prayers of her Faith Church family.
"Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Legacy" Faith's Capital Building Campaign		<b>Join your prayers of joy and prayers for a safe and speedy construction process. Thanksgiving 2018 now has a very special extra reason for our shared gratitude.</b> Let us pray for the response to our Capital Campaign as we plan for our future building: Our Loving God, by your love and grace, may we run, and not be weary. May we rise up on the wings of eagles. May we know that You, our everlasting God, are always with us! Amen.

## Faith Presbyterian Church

### Mission Statement:

By God's love and grace, we are Called, Committed and Led.

### Vision Statement:

Called by God to be Faith Presbyterian Church of the North Georgia Mountains, we welcome all to join together to worship God.

Committed to following Jesus' example, we joyfully share God's love, grace and gifts with all in our church family and community.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to grow spiritually in this community of Faith.

### Church Priorities for 2019 (as adopted by the Session at the Session Retreat, November 2018):

- Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community
- Continue as a spiritual community worshiping God by the sharing of our time, talent and treasure.
- Equip and encourage all to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to show God's love, grace and care.
- Develop effective church leaders
- Develop effective communication to include appropriate use of technology
- Construct our new church facility.
- Prepare for the transition to our new church facility.
- Recognize the challenge of the expense of the new building, while maintaining and developing our ongoing life and witness.