



# Faith Presbyterian Church Happenings!

January 7, 2019



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## Monday, January 7

**Church Office:** Peggy Reich and Sue Cole  
**5:30-8:00** Jewish Congregation Meeting



## Tuesday, January 8

**Church Office:** Janice Cary  
**4:00** Spiritual Development Planning Team

## WEDNESDAY, January 9

**Church Office:** Sylvia Goodyear  
**5:30** Choir Rehearsal

## THURSDAY, January 10

**Church Office:** Lynn Hayes  
**Food Bank:** 10-12 Sylvia Goodyear and Carole Ulnick  
1-3 Jim and Karen Bunnelle  
**2:00** Faith Group  
**5:45** Study Group

## FRIDAY, January 11

**Church Office:** Treva Wheatley  
**10:00** Angel Craft Day

## SATURDAY, January 12

**Merry Maids**  
**9:00** Trout Unlimited

## SUNDAY, January 13

**9:30** Choir Rehearsal  
**10:30** Worship – Ordination and Installation of Elders – **Please Wear Red in celebration of the role of the Holy Spirit in ordination**  
Second Sunday Lunch – chili lunch – includes presentation and celebration of priorities for 2019

## Monday, January 14

**Church Office:** Peggy Reich and Sue Cole  
**1:00** Congregational Care Planning Team  
**2:30** Shepherd Training

**Worship Attendance January 6: 91**

**January Head Usher: Bill Young**

**Ushers for January 13: Craig and Susan Learn, Joe Nelson, Joe Silva**



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### Worship Information at Faith Presbyterian Church

## January and February 2019: A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS

Throughout this season as we reflect and share God's light by our living, we will use the following prayer:

May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth,  
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,  
to bring out those who live in bondage,  
to bring new things to all creation:  
may this path run through our life.  
May we be the road Christ takes. Amen.

### This Sunday .... January 13, 2019... Baptism of the Lord Sunday

#### A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS 2. On the banks of the Jordan

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Isaiah 43:1–7 Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14–17 Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43:1–7 and Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Sermon Title: “Baptized to serve”

Service of Ordination and Installation of Elders

**Please wear red in celebration of the Service of Ordination and Installation**

Second Sunday Lunch – chili and all the fixings. Includes presentations and conversations about the work of the congregation in 2019.

### The Sunday after next.... January 20, 2019... The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS 3. At a wedding in Cana

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Isaiah 62:1–5 Psalm 36:5–10 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 John 2:1–11

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 62:1–5 and John 2:1–11

Sermon Title: “New wine”

Our next **Discovery Class** is scheduled for this Sunday, **Sunday, January 27, 2019**. 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 Pastor Jim Simpson's January 6 sermon: "Outsiders no more"

"This morning I want us to reflect on the significance of the visit not of the wise guys but of the wise men, the visitors from afar, who came seeking a King, who visited the manger and worshipped the Christ child. This morning, right here and now, in my words and in our shared imagination let us allow each of these visitors tell their own story to us that we might best see and know our Savior.....

**Now, the fourth speaks**, for yes, nowhere in scripture does it specify that there were three visitors searching and seeking, only that three gifts were offered:

This fourth speaks with a strange accent different from the travelers from the East. It is said he's from the West, from a small, cold, windy, beautiful green mountainous island up North, so far up north, that it is lapped by the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

This one speaks of all the gifts brought and offered by the other visitors with whom he made common cause to seek out the new King. He makes common cause with others, very different from himself because to truly recognize Jesus the King it always requires us to make common cause.

This one seeks to speak of all the implications of the coming of this Child in the manger. He speaks out of his own wonder at the coming of the Savior, he speaks to persuade others, to counsel, to encourage.

This one speaks out of and on behalf of a faith community that is itself on the move, a fellowship that has always been open to hearing and acting upon the call of God, a community willing to uproot itself in order to travel to that place where it has seen and recognized the call and invitation of God so that yet more people may be touched by and discover and experience for themselves, the tender, forgiving, emboldening love of the Child of Bethlehem.

This community's gold is a representation of years of education and work and labor of bodies and minds and peoples' sensible approach to saving and retirement this gold is now offered freely and gladly and generously that more and more of the travelers we encounter and the people we meet on our life's journey might come to accept God's invitation to come and meet and worship the Savior of us all.

Gold for God, gold not for hoarding but for giving and sharing, gold investing in the good and godly purposes of seeking, caring, sharing and serving.

Gold representing our very best intentions, our most tender attitudes and actions, our most compassionate caring and passionate service of others, our love and devotion for the Christ whose birth we are celebrating, whose life we revere, whose death and resurrection forever gives us hope.



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Our community also gifts its frankincense – our best intentions and dearest desires that elevate our seeing, that lift our gaze, that extend our vision, that raise our sense of all that is at stake as we build and prepare a new building in which Christ can be birthed and lived and shared and worshiped. This building – a manger of sorts always with room for our Savior a means to the end and purpose of coming near and alongside people who like us need to know there is hope. So that we can be present for those who with us want to experience a new life of restoration and renewal, that flows from the heart and essence of God. Space to meet and share the God who has come close, who has drawn near and draws us ever nearer still – to love, to joy, to peace, to hope, to our neighbors, to our friends and yes even to those we had previously thought of as enemies, because confronted with the very essence of love and holy purpose we kneel in adoration and wonder and prayer … all of us… all….

And we also share our myrrh, myrrh to mark our dying to our old selves, our old lives, that we might embrace the new life that God has for us in our Savior. Myrrh that connect us to our own pains and struggles and losses, making us ever more aware of the needs and challenges of the people around us.

Laying aside all prejudice and hatred; leaving behind all ingratitude and selfishness, and turning aside from suspicion and intolerance, we become yet more aware of the love within which we and all people and all life is held and in the strength of that love we love, we love as God loves, we love all whom God loves, we love all that God loves. It is in such a love that we anticipate every aspect of our developing life as a church family from Mountain Street to Bluebird Road and in all that this journey will ask of us and bring to us.

The arrival of the Magi before the holy family is not the final scene around the manger. The gifts there offered do not declare the end of Christmas instead they point the way forward into the impact that Jesus will always have upon human society and the call that Jesus has upon our loyalties. The arrival of the Magi confirm that the Kingdom of God has and is coming near, even before John or Jesus Himself would be able to proclaim the Kingdom. In contrast to the Magi who bent their knee and offered their gifts, Herod, the tyrant, did as tyrants always do, he chose terror and violence.

T.S. Eliot ended his poem, “Journey Of The Magi”, imagining the thoughts of the magi:

*“All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for Birth or Death?  
There was a Birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different;  
this Birth was Hard and bitter agony for us, like  
Death, our death.*



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*We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death."*

"We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation"

Jesus does not make my life more comfortable;  
Jesus doesn't help me fit in and succeed within a world at odds with the will of God;  
Jesus challenges and chides and nudges and urges me towards goodness, and grace and faith and service.  
We can no longer be at ease in a world not committed to Jesus.

A strange, unfamiliar road is now our path. But this road is going somewhere, going somewhere hopeful and truthful and special because it is a road to the Christ and with the Christ and for the Christ of God.

On this road we would continue offering our gifts and our hope knowing that in the gift of God in Christ, our generosity to each other and to all will increase... for thanks to our Savior Jesus we and all people are outsiders no more. Amen...."

### Second Sunday Chili Lunch



Our Second Sunday lunch on January 13 will be a chili lunch. We have a nice variety of chilis coming. Thanks to our awesome chili makers! Please come enjoy lunch and bring a side dish of your choice to complement the chili--salad, fruit, cornbread, muffins, biscuits--whatever you like, or a dessert. All are welcome!



Join us for **Faith at the Movies**, beginning **Wednesday, January 16th at 11:30**, with "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button". Please feel free to bring a lunch and we will provide drinks and popcorn. This is for ALL and you can even bring a friend. Chris Martinez and Patty Morris will facilitate some fun discussions about how we view movies in 'view' of our faith. We will have a movie every other WEDNESDAY throughout January and February. Stay tuned for upcoming attractions!



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January	Birthdays
<b>1</b> Debbie Peterson Janice Simpson Barbara Schmus	<b>7</b> Ashley May
<b>2</b> Jaxson May Maggie March	<b>10</b> Carl Riggs
<b>6</b> Stef Smith	<b>12</b> Tom Potito
	<b>13</b> Bill Westley
	<b>17</b> Chuck Daniel
	<b>18</b> Ann Rand
	<b>19</b> Terri Charron



**Calling all crafters! Bring your scissors.** Join us in the Gathering Room on Friday, January 11, from 10 AM til noon, as we begin to make Tartan Angels for our Scotland travelers to give to those who will be hosting them along the way. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Room. Come enjoy good fellowship!



**Plans are well underway for our Burns Supper to be held on Friday evening, January 25 (5:30-8 p.m.).** This is a traditional Scottish celebration of the birthday of Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns. In addition to the Burns meal, there will be music, singing, reading of a poem or two, and even a little easy dancing. If you would be interested in participating in any way, contact Lynn Hayes (404-702-0643) or Doris Riggs [dorisriggs@tds.net](mailto:dorisriggs@tds.net).



Save the date and join us for a fun-filled evening and a traditional (delicious!) Burns Supper.

**Please sign up by Sunday, January 20.**



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### Mission and Outreach

**Snack in a Backpack** is a 501(c)3 non-profit that helps feed the Youth of Fannin County on the weekends. We pack over 400 bags each week and they are delivered to the 5 Fannin County Schools and Head Start Preschool. This year we were excited to be able be a part of the Summer meal program helping serve over 12,000 meals during the summer to over 300 children. This expanded the Snack program to a year-round program. During the 2017-2018 school year we packed approximately 10,000 bags totaling about 55,000 meals. Since school started for the 2018-2019 school year, we have packed 6000 bags and 27,000 meals.



We are in the process of planning our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser – “*Bringin’ the Blues to Blue Ridge*” that takes place on Saturday, February 23rd at Mercier Orchards. Tickets are on sale now. Also, anyone that would be interested in being a business sponsor or helping with an auction item, would be greatly appreciated. Contact Angela Huffstetler – Executive Director, [BackPackFannin@gmail.com](mailto:BackPackFannin@gmail.com)

We are always looking for volunteers with a passion to help Children of Fannin County.

**[Click to get to the Faith Facebook page](#)** If a story or post or photograph receives 5 or more likes, shares or comments hundreds more people will see that item on their Facebook feed, so please be encouraged to react to the posts you see on the church Facebook page.





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## Children's Church

January 13 Debbie Peterson, Ann Rand

January 20 Diana Gnann and Jeannine Lazenby

January 27 Doris Riggs, Treva Wheatley



**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 sign up genius.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).

**Online Church Directory** The new system is now in use and we are continually correcting typos and errors in our data. If you see any edits, please let us know. The latest Directory is available on the church website at <https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/church-directory> Password is: Faith

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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**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.



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

New Building Committee (NBC)	Capital Campaign Committee (CCC)
Bruce Burn	Janeese Glascock



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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	

Reverend Simpson serves, ex-officio, both committees.

**New Building and Capital Campaign Committees...** Ask for your continuing prayers for wisdom and guidance as we begin the initial dirt-moving stage of construction. The mortgage closing was December 21<sup>st</sup>.

	<p><b><u>Day by Day, Faithfully Forward</u></b> Some highlights and ways to be involved.</p>
Tuesday, January 8	4:00 Spiritual Development Team
Friday, January 11	10 AM til noon, Tartan Angel Workshop for our Scotland travelers to give to those who will be hosting them along the way.
Sunday, January 13	Ordination and Installation of Elders Second Sunday Chili Lunch
Wednesday, January 16 And every other Wednesday in January and February	11:30 Faith at the Movies: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" Look for updates on upcoming movies to be shown.
Friday, January 25 from 5:30 – 8 p.m.	 <p>Burns Supper Food, fun and fellowship.</p>



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Saturday, February 2	9:00 Men's Breakfast at Pete's Place
Sunday, February 3	SUPERBOWL of Caring, Annual Meeting of Congregation 2:00 Service at Blue Ridge Assisted Living
Saturday, February 23	SnackinBackpack annual fundraiser, " <i>Bringin in the Blues to Blue Ridge</i> " at Mercier Orchards.

\*\*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	From
Charlie Penrosa	Elaine Whitley	Elaine asks for prayers for healing and relief of pain for her son-in-law, Charlie Penrosa. He recently had back surgery for pain, but the pain has increased significantly since the procedure.	17-Dec-18
Maggie March		Maggie asks for prayers for healing as a new cancer nodule has been found in her upper right lung lobe. She sends praise and thanks for healing of her blood clots and resolution of internal bleeding from coumadin	16-Dec-18
Virginia McPhee		Please pray for Virginia as she is experiencing some new pain and would appreciate our prayers.	9-Dec-18
Judy Evans		Please uplift Judy in prayer. She remains at Pruitt Health Nursing Home in Blue Ridge and needs our prayers for her progress with physical therapy to allow her more mobility in her right leg. Prayers for her complete recovery are appreciated.	12-Dec-18
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.	30-Sep-18
Nance Huish		Thank you to my loving church family for your continued prayers for my declining health and praise for new pain doctor to review new techniques for pain control..	10-Jun-18



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"Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Legacy" Faith's Capital Building Campaign

**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.** 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.