



# Faith Presbyterian Church Happenings!

February 4, 2019



Updated news and other resources available online at: <http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org/>  
*If you are a Facebook user and have not yet "liked" the Faith Presbyterian Church Facebook page – click this Facebook button (you may need to press the CTRL key and click the button...)*

*Pastor Simpson is on Study Leave February 4-8. If you need assistance, please contact your Shepherd or an Elder.*

**Monday, February 4**

**Church Office: Peggy Reich and Elaine Whitley  
2:00-4:00 Jewish Congregation Small Group Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 5**

**Church Office: Janice Cary**

**WEDNESDAY, February 6**

**Church Office: Sylvia Goodyear  
3:00 Stewardship Committee  
3:30 Piano Lessons  
5:30 Choir Rehearsal**

**THURSDAY, February 7**

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

**FRIDAY, February 8**

**Church Office: Treva Wheatley**

**SATURDAY, February 9**

**9:00 Trout Unlimited  
Merry Maids: Doris and Carl Riggs**

**SUNDAY, February 10**

**9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 Service of Worship, Shepherd Commissioning  
Second Sunday Lunch**

**MONDAY, February 11**

**Church Office: Peggy Reich and Elaine Whitley  
1:00 Administration Planning Team**

**Worship Attendance February 3: 91**

**February Head Usher: Brenda Scruggs  
Ushers for February 10: Cyndi Hunt, Frances Young, Hilda and Larry Giles**



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## Worship Information at Faith Presbyterian Church

### 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 .... February 10, 2019... The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS 6. Beside the Lake of Galilee**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) - Psalm 138 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - Luke 5:1-11

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 and Luke 5:1-11

Sermon Title: "Called and Sent"

Commissioning of 2019 Shepherds

Second Sunday Lunch – everyone is invited to sit at tables in their respective Shepherd groups/flocks

**The Sunday after next.... February 17, 2019... The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS 7. On the Plain (1)**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Jeremiah 17:5-10 - Psalm 1 - 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 - Luke 6:17-26

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10 and Luke 6:17-26

Sermon Title: "Blessed emptiness "

**11:45 a.m. Liturgist Training – all Liturgists—past, present, future-- invited. If you would like to find out more about serving as a Liturgist, please plan to attend also!**





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## **From Pastor Jim Simpson's February 3 sermon: "Hometown Boy (no longer!)"**

"... In last week's reading we read about Jesus coming to the synagogue in His hometown where He was asked to read from scripture and where Jesus declared, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And as we heard today all was going swimmingly – as we say. All was sweetness and light – everyone was aglow with good and righteous thoughts prompted by Jesus presence and His brief, initial proclamation of God's Word to the congregation. Jesus' words so far deserve an A+ for being contextual. No real surprise there because Jesus knew this community, He understood their history and customs and traditions, Jesus knew how to get a hearing and initially everything was good, all were focused, aware that they were hearing a word from God but Jesus could not, like any good preacher only be contextual, Jesus had to go on and be cross-cultural, and transcultural, intercultural, and countercultural in how He applied all the implications of the Word from God.

It is as Jesus does this – exploring God's word and exploding the bubble of those listening who somehow imagined that God was only interested in them and God's word was only for them... that the mood changes. Despite the recognition that Jesus speaks and shares gracious words the hometown folks are irked. Something in the directness and immediacy of Jesus' declaration, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" is not sitting right with those in the synagogue... and their rejoinder is, "Wait a minute, hold your horses.... Isn't this Joseph's son? Isn't this the Jesus who grew up alongside our kids? Why does Jesus feel enabled or entitled to speak so directly on behalf of God to us?"

For His part Jesus catches their suspicion, their reticence, their reluctance, their questioning and engages in a conversation about his ability to speak for God in his own hometown. Jesus sets about applying the message of good news for the poor and release to the captives and redemption for the oppressed and sight for the blind and makes it very clear that such promises are for all people, not just for the people like Him, not just for people like those present in the congregation that day.

Jesus does this by choosing illustrations that describe God's care and provision for people outside of that gathered community. Jesus points to the example of how God dealt gently with the widow of Zarephath in Sidon, in what today would be Lebanon and how God brought healing to Naaman the General of the Syrian army who in his time was an implacable enemy of Israel.

Everyone knew what was being said. Jesus knew what He was saying, why He was saying it and Jesus really, really meant what He was saying. Jesus was pointing to an essential element of the message of God's Good News for the world! The congregation knew what was being said and they did not like it! As the text states without hiding anything - when they heard Jesus affirm that God's Good News was not exclusively for them but was also for foreigners and Syrians, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.



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The Greek word for “Rage” means a state of intense anger, the sort of anger that can’t be contained within a person but gets expressed in loud, angry, passionate outbursts.

Our reading from the Hebrew Scriptures today from Jeremiah 1 would have been very familiar to Jesus. It included these words, “The Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” Like most preachers Jesus wishes to build and to plant – who wouldn’t but the reality is that along with, and often before the building and planting there has to be a clearing of the way, a plucking up and a pulling down, destroying and overthrowing, in order that the building and planting can come to pass.

This is the challenge of God’s Word to and for us all. Will we want to hear? Will we want to receive God’s word? Will we let God’s word and not some other version or claim of truth take root in our living and thinking and being?.....

... Whatever our sense of chosen-ness, chosen-ness by God and for God we must always have and make room and space for all the others that God also chooses, welcomes, includes and that is ALL! In Jesus’ life, in our lives, in the life of the church, in the life of this congregation God’s Word to us and for us in scripture is always fulfilled through the power of love.

The power of love, the power of God’s love is today expressed in the word proclaimed and heard, the power of God’s love is key and central in the life and meaning and purpose and future of this congregation, the power of God’s love is enacted and shared in God’s world by your faithful service and concern for your neighbors and the least and the last.

And today at this Table the power of God’s love is soon to be offered to all in gifts of bread and wine, food for followers, gifts for the journey, love for loving! Amen.”



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## Blue Ridge Assisted Living

Faith conducted a wonderful worship service at Blue Ridge Assisted Living this past Sunday at 2 PM.



At right is Adele, center, chatting with Sandy Miller and Kathy Cardwell. Adele is 101 years young.



**Blue Ridge Assisted Living** would like to know if anyone in our congregation would like to volunteer in the Memory Care Unit to handle Bingo or other activities. Please call Elaine Whitley at 407-712-4847 to help.

Our next **Discovery Class** is scheduled for this Sunday, **Sunday, February 24, 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.

### February 2019 Learning Opportunities

**Faith at the Movies** Wednesdays at 11:30

Popcorn and drinks provided. Bring your own lunch if you like.

February 13 – Family Man

February 27 – The Theory of Everything – Lenten movie

**Thursday Faith Group, 2 pm resumed January 3.** Study: Unshakable Hope. This is a six-week study with each session independent of the others. Leader, Sylvia Goodyear.

**Thursday Evening Study Group** resumes January 17. Study to be determined. Leader, Janice Simpson.



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### **Second Sunday Lunch February 10 after worship**

#### **Hosted by the Faith Shepherds**

This will be potluck so bring your favorite entrée, side dish, or dessert to share. Dining tables will be arranged for the Shepherds to sit with their flocks. Look for your Shepherd's name and enjoy lunch, friends and fellowship. Everyone is invited and welcome!

**Wednesday, February 13th** is our next 'Faith at the Movies"! We will be watching 'Family Man', touted as a modern-day "It's A Wonderful Life"...what would happen if we made a different choice in life? We provide popcorn, soda, great fellowship and conversations. JOIN US at **11:30**. Bring your lunch if you like.



### **Fire and Ice/Chili Cook Off is almost here, Saturday, February 16th. Faith will have a booth again this year.**

- You will be frying our famous 'Chili Dipper Tortillas'. Experienced folks will be there to get you going.
- You share these chips FREE to the public with any donations going to our wonderful Faith Garden/Feed Fannin project.
- We need your help...please sign up in the gathering room! Short shifts, long on fun!



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**Calling all crafters! Bring your scissors.** Join us in the Gathering Room on Friday, February 22, from 1-3 pm, as we make our final batch of Tartan Angels for our Scotland travelers to give to those who will be hosting them along the way. We had a wonderful time sharing fellowship and friendship at our January gathering. Join us in February. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Room.



**Snack in a Backpack** is a 501(c)3 non-profit that helps feed the Youth of Fannin County on the weekends.



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.



### February Ushers

February 10 Cyndi Hunt, Frances Young, Hilda and Larry Giles

February 17 Sherry Scruggs, Doris Riggs, Jim and Karen Bunnelle

February 24 Sherry Scruggs, Sally Crawford, Craig and Susan Learn



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## February Children's Church

February 10 Debbie Peterson and Diana Gnann

February 17 Patty Morris and Jeannine Lazenby

February 24 Doris Riggs and Treva Wheatley



Thank you Faith! Our “**Souper Bowl**” Sunday donation to Fannin Family Connection and the Food Bank was \$470 plus numerous canned/dry goods. Family Connection has 8 times the buying power so our donation will allow them to purchase \$3,760 of food.

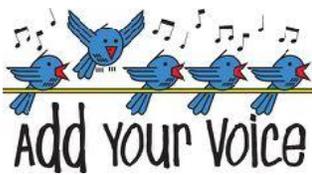


### Family Connection Opportunity--Food Bank volunteers:

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).

**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)



**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 (Wood and Stone 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
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. Progress continues on the Blue Bird property as earth moving ensues for site preparation. Weather permitting, underground drainage installation will be the next major step with all runoff directed to a pond location at the far end of the property.

Construction sites can be a dangerous place for spectators. A safe distance is well defined by the erosion control fencing surrounding the site. We will be supplying pictures frequently of the progress, but if you visit the site, please stay behind the black erosion control fencing to be safe. Thanks for helping us keep everyone safe.

If you want to provide input, suggestions or have questions, please feel free to reach out to anyone on the WSC.





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	<p><b><u>Day by Day, Faithfully Forward</u></b>  <b>Some highlights and ways to be involved.</b></p>
<p>Sunday, February 10</p> 	<p>Second Sunday Lunch hosted by the Shepherds following worship service. This will be potluck so bring your favorite entrée, side dish, or dessert to share. Dining tables will be arranged for the Shepherds to sit with their flocks. Look for your Shepherd's name and enjoy lunch, friends and fellowship. Everyone is invited and welcome!</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 13</p>	<p>11:30 Faith at the Movies: "Family Man"            3:00 Nomination Committee</p>
<p>Saturday, February 23</p>	<p>Snack-in-a-Backpack annual fundraiser, "<i>Bringin in the Blues to Blue Ridge</i>" at Mercier Orchards.</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 27</p>	<p>11:30 Faith at the Movies: "The Theory of Everything"</p>
<p>March 23</p>	<p>Red Cross Blood Drive</p>

**\*\*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
Jeannine Lazenby	Gary Lazenby	Please pray for Jeannine Lazenby as she goes thru some various health issues.	4-Feb-19
Jack Burel	Judy Evans	Please pray for Judy Evans' brother-in-law, Jack Burel. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is not doing well. He now needs blood transfusions.	4-Feb-19



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Pat Macey	Frances Thompson	Pat Macey, neighbor of John and Frances Thompson, recently had a brain aneurysm. She had surgery at Erlanger in Chattanooga, is currently improving in ICU, and could use our prayers.	4-Feb-19
Sonya Burleson		PRAISE UPDATE: Sonya is now in a room at Wellstar Hospital, North Fulton, and doing much better. She has started rehab. Our prayers continue to be greatly appreciated.	4-Feb-19
Lavaughn Ferris		PRAISE UPDATE: Lavaughn's hip replacement surgery Jan. 28 went well; she is home recovering and getting around on a walker. Pastor Jim has spoken with both Glenn and Lavaughn and our prayers continue to be appreciated.	4-Feb-19
Anne Record		PRAISE UPDATE: Anne is doing well recovering from 2 fractures in her lower spine. Prayers for healing and her complete recovery are greatly appreciated.	4-Feb-19
Chris Burge (Chuck & Beth Huckleberry's son-in-law)	Beth Huckleberry	Chris is weak but feeling better each day. However, he cannot get an appointment with an endocrinologist to address his type 2 diabetes with ketoacidosis until April. He and his primary doctor are working together to try to maintain the balance of electrolytes he had when he was discharged from the hospital, but so far with little success. Please pray for wisdom for his primary doctor as Chris awaits his April appointment.	25-Jan-19
Stephanie Schulman		Please pray for Stephanie Schulman, wife of Alan, member of the Jewish Community and participant in Women of Faith and other joint activities involving Faith and the Jewish Community of Blue Ridge. Stephanie will be having surgery mid-February followed by a period of chemo and radiation therapy.	25-Jan-19
Tim Davis (Elaine Whitley's son-in-law)		Tim Davis has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and is undergoing radiation. Our prayers for healing are greatly appreciated.	13-Jan-19
Judy Evans		PRAISE UPDATE: Judy is now at home and continuing her recovery from a broken hip. Prayers for healing and complete recovery continue to be appreciated.	13-Jan-19
Virginia McPhee		Please pray for Virginia as she is experiencing some new pain and would appreciate our prayers.	9-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
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



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Nance Huish		Nance continues to receive advice and treatment on several physical challenges. She will have a procedure this week that will hopefully alleviate her back pain. Please keep her lifted up in your prayers.	4-Feb-19
"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 worshipping 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.