



Faith Presbyterian Church Happenings!

February 18, 2019



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MONDAY, February 18

**Church office closed for Presidents' Day holiday
2:00-4:00 Jewish Congregation small group meeting**

Tuesday, February 19

**Church Office: Janice Cary
9:30 Session Meeting**

WEDNESDAY, February 20

**Church Office: Debbie Peterson
3:30 Piano Lessons
5:30 Choir Rehearsal**

THURSDAY, February 21

**Church Office: Lynn Hayes
10:00 Video Recording in Sanctuary
Food Bank: 10-12
1-3
2:00 Faith Group
5:45 Study Group**

FRIDAY, February 22

**Church Office: Treva Wheatley
1:00 Craft Day at Church
2:00 Trout Festival Meeting**

SATURDAY, February 23

**Merry Maids: Patty Morris and Diane McMillan
10:00 Cherokee Presbytery-Ebenezer Ghanaian
Evening: Bring the Blues to Blue Ridge (Snack in Backpack)**

SUNDAY, February 24

**9:30 Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Service of Worship**



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MONDAY, February 25

Church Office: Peggy Reich and Elaine Whitley

Worship Attendance February 17: 116

February Head Usher: Brenda Scruggs

Ushers for February 24: Sherry Scruggs, Sally Crawford, Craig and Susan Learn

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 24, 2019... The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS 8. On the Plain (2)

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 -

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 - Luke 6:27-38

Scripture Readings: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 and Luke 6:27-38

Sermon Title: "Unlimited Love"

9:00 a.m. Discovery Class

Reception of new members

The Sunday after next.... March 3, 2019... Transfiguration Sunday

A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS 9. On a Mountain

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year: Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

Scripture Readings: Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-43

Sermon Title: " 'Listen to Him' "

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated and shared.



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From Pastor Jim Simpson's February 10 sermon: "Blessed emptiness"

".... Most people, most of the time think about the Beatitudes as only being found in the Gospel of Matthew, part of what we know as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Today however we do hear some of the Beatitudes as we read Jesus' sermon on the plain as we find it in The Gospel of Luke.

Whereas in the Gospel of Matthew there are nine Beatitudes here in Luke there are only four. Four statements of blessing and four corresponding woes. Four statements that celebrate what it is to go God's way paired with four statements that represent the opposite – of going your own way.

The writer of Luke reserves the mountain tops for the many times when Jesus steps aside from preaching, healing and helping, to spend time in quiet and prayer. As the opening verses of this Chapter tell us Jesus has just returned from one of His mountain top retreats and now Jesus comes down from the mountain top to be with and come alongside all those who have gathered "on the plain" – people from all over the country seeking Jesus' help.

Standing with and amongst all these long-lost children looking to come to and return to God Jesus speaks to them, Jesus speaks for them and Jesus speaks of them.... In the light of all that Jesus says those who hear and the world are never ever the same again!

If, like me, you enjoy some or any or all, of the formula cop shows on TV you know the scene very well.... The group of officers seeking a suspect make their way to or into a building – a house, an apartment, a hotel room and with a battering ram they take out the door and enter in! In these verses as Jesus speaks, God is breaking down the doors, splintering and shattering the barriers, and opening all to a new reality. Jesus' bold proclamation came that day to the disciples seeking to learn and to all who had come seeking help; Jesus' bold proclamation comes to you and I and to the church of every age and place, announcing that a new age, a new way of being, a new realm, a different Kingdom has and is coming in God's reign.

Jesus declares to those with Him who have already left everything to follow him that the kingdom of God is theirs, no matter what reactions they face. And Jesus warns all who would hold to a different path, their own way, that their lives cannot but end up woeful because they are based on what is not true and lasting.

In Jesus' words we encounter a raw, unfiltered, unvarnished, faith-rattling and life-changing declaration of the realm of God, the revolution that is love. Despite all the evidence to the contrary Jesus declares God's blessing on the poor, the hungry, the reviled and, conversely, God's judgment on the rich, and the comfortable.

This is not a new message, this is not original to Jesus, this message is present in the Isaiah text from which Jesus read in the synagogue in Nazareth, this message was there in what Jesus said about that Isaiah text and this message is laid bare, made fully clear and obvious in the new



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urgent word that Jesus speaks in today's text that is direct and terse, pointed and searing. In Jesus, God is speaking, and thereby creating a whole new order of things, an order that cannot but be unsettling and upsetting to those who are doing quite well within the current order. This new order, this new realm, this Kingdom of God is found among any who have nothing but God – the poor, the hungry, the grieving, the victims. These words overthrow every inclination we have to somehow attempt to fit God into our own small definitions, cultures, and places. God will no longer be excluded, God is calling us on to what lasts, and to return to what matters.

This powerful sermon seems aimed less at the people in general, than it is at the disciples present within the large gathering. This sermon is for you and me, it is for the church. It is our commitment to follow the way of Jesus that make these words applicable to us. Applicable to us, yet attainable not by our own efforts but only through the experience and enabling of God's grace, the gift of God's own Holy Spirit at work in and through us all.....”

Pastor Jim's paraphrase of the text in Luke 4: **“Blessed Emptiness”**

Jesus spoke to all who had gathered from Fannin and Gilmer counties, from way down south in Dothan, AL and every part of Florida and from places up north, and out west. With a focused gaze like when tying a fish tie Jesus looked at all the learners, square in the eye, and spoke:

You're blessed by your total emptiness – with room for God

You're blessed by your deepest hunger – with an appetite for God's goodness in community

You're blessed by your sorest losses – with care for all who struggle

You're blessed by the worst criticisms for doing what is good – with joyful and overflowing compassion

It will be a completely wrong turn to trust only in yourself

It will be a completely wrong turn to be satisfied with what the world values

It will be a completely wrong turn to stand aside from all who are in need

It will be a completely wrong turn to revel in being popular for no good and lasting reason

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 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. We already have two people registered for this Discovery Class so if you are ready for membership, come join them!



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Beyond the Wood and Stone

Do you have a "**Beyond the Wood and Stone**" story? Please share.

Contact: Randy Griggs (hrandallg@gmail.com)

Randy Borden (randyborden@yahoo.com)



AUDIO, VIDEO, LIGHTING SUB-COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

Do you have Audio, Video or Lighting operating, selection or installation experience? Would you like to be part of the exciting work in planning and recommending AVL equipment and systems for our new church building? If so, we have a place for you on the AVL Sub-Committee. We need to enlarge our committee to cover all the important work to be done throughout this year. Please consider sharing your time and talents. To volunteer or for more information, contact: Harold Wills. 404-786-7330.

haroldwills@hotmail.com

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.

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February 2019 Learning Opportunities

Faith at the Movies Wednesdays at 11:30

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

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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Many thanks to Bill Young for heading this up and helping to raise over \$200 for the Food Bank.



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.





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



Our 8th Annual Fundraiser – “Bringin’ the Blues to Blue Ridge” takes place this 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 We are always looking for volunteers with a passion to help Children of Fannin County.

*“Dear Faith Presbyterian Church,
On behalf of the Snack in a Backpack program, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$250.00. Your commitment to helping children is sincerely appreciated. The goal of the Snack in a Backpack program is to continue to make a difference in the lives of hungry children and their families. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in the lives of these children, one backpack at a time. Thanks again for your generous support of our efforts.*

Warmest Regards, Angela Huffstetler, Program Director”



*“Dear Faith Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your continued support of Snack in a Backpack. The children of Fannin County are benefitting as a result of your generosity. Sincerely,
Jeanie May, Snack Volunteer”*



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

February Children's Church

February 24 Doris Riggs and 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 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 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



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If you have any experience using the database, Microsoft Access, we would love to hear from you, email Bob Goodyear rgoodyear@mindspring.com



Interested in singing in the choir? Just call or email Kathy Cardwell at kathymac@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 (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. The Department of Transportation is allowing us to take out dead trees and trees less than 4 inches in diameter on land that is between the new church and Highway 515. This will be good for safety, attractiveness, and visibility of the church from the highway.

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. 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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	<u>Day by Day, Faithfully Forward</u> Some highlights and ways to be involved.
Saturday, February 23	Snack-in-a-Backpack annual fundraiser, <i>“Bringin in the Blues to Blue Ridge”</i> at Mercier Orchards.
Wednesday, February 27	11:30 Faith at the Movies: <i>“The Theory of Everything”</i>
Monday, March 4 and March 25	1:00 Women of Faith
Friday, March 29 (this is the new, re-scheduled date)	Red Cross Blood Drive 

****Church Newsletter:** Email articles and photos for the newsletter to faithpcbueridge@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 (706) 632-5920. Prayer requests for immediate needs relating to



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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
Al Malone (Tom and Pat Barrentine's brother-in-law)		Al Malone (age 92) passed away Feb. 9 in Mississippi. Our prayers for Al, his wife, Helen (who provided a home for Tom and his brother when they were children), and their families during this difficult time are greatly appreciated.	10-Feb-19
The mother of Sherry Morris		Please pray for Sherry's mom who is dealing with several serious health issues. Sherry is the Director of our Fannin Co. Family Connection and appreciates our prayers.	11-Feb-19
Family of John O'Kain	Jim Simpson	Please pray for the family of John O'Kain, one of Pastor Jim's former Associate Pastor colleagues from Oakland Ave. Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC. John was killed in a road traffic incident Feb. 6 on his way to teach school. Please pray for strength and healing for his wife, Kelley, and their 2 young sons, and for all whose lives have been touched by John's life and ministry.	6-Feb-19
David Moran (Michelle Moran's nephew)	Michelle Moran	Please pray for David, Michelle Moran's 38-year-old nephew, who died Feb. 4 in a very tragic car accident in Connecticut. Our prayers for him, his wife Esther, his parents Patrick and Esther, and younger sister Jenny are greatly appreciated.	6-Feb-19
Marlene Nelson		Marlene underwent outpatient carpal tunnel surgery on Feb. 4 and is doing well in her recovery; our prayers for healing are so greatly appreciated.	6-Feb-19
Pat Macey and Family	Frances Thompson	UPDATE: Pat Macey, neighbor of John and Frances Thompson, who recently had a brain aneurysm and for whom we have been praying, passed away Feb. 7. Please pray for Pat, her husband Kevin, and their family during this difficult time.	7-Feb-19
Jeannine Lazenby	Gary Lazenby	Please pray for Jeannine Lazenby as she goes through 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
Sonya Burleson		UPDATE: Sonya has been released from Wellstar Hospital, North Fulton, and is at a rehab facility closer to her family. Our prayers continue to be greatly appreciated.	4-Feb-19
Lavaughn Ferris		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



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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		UPDATE: 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 had surgery Feb. 14 and will soon begin a period of chemo and radiation therapy.	25-Jan-19
Virginia McPhee		Please pray for Virginia as she is experiencing some new pain and would appreciate our prayers.	
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	
Peggy Zinsli		Prayers for healing of kidney issues she now faces along with continued Dr. visits to find relief of pain.	
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.	
"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.



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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.