



# FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Happenings!

March 30, 2020

**CURRENTLY, ALL IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHURCH ARE CANCELLED UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL 15.**

## CALENDAR OF WEEKLY EVENTS

Updated news and other resources available online at: [www.faithpresbyterianusa.org](http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org)

<p><b>Monday, March 30</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until March 31</b>            Newsletter-Chris Chambers-remotely.            Please continue to send information to <a href="mailto:newsletter@faithpresbyteriansusa.org">newsletter@faithpresbyteriansusa.org</a>  <b>4:00 Stewardship Meeting to be held remotely via ZOOM</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, March 31</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until April 15</b>  <b>4:00 Spiritual Development Planning Meeting on ZOOM,</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, April 1</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until April 15</b>  <b>10:00 FOT/Admin Elders/Pastor on zoom</b>  <b>12:00 Session Meeting on ZOOM</b>  <b>2:00 p.m. Lenten Study offered via Zoom</b>  <b>led by Pastor Jim and Bruce Graham</b>  <b>“Good News for Wilderness People”</b>  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/770155939">https://zoom.us/j/770155939</a>  <b>Talkback Session on online Communion</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 2</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until April 15</b>  <b>Food Pantry is planning to be open – 10-12 and 1-3.</b>  <b>Please consider your own safety</b></p>
<p><b>Friday, April 3</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until April 15</b>  <b>11-4 BLOOD DRIVE CONFIRMED</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday, April 4</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until April 15</b>  <b>Men’s Breakfast Cancelled</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday</b>  <b>WORSHIP CONNECTION on ZOOM</b>  <b>The ZOOM meeting will open at 10:00 a.m. and the WORSHIP CONNECTION program will start at 10:30 a.m.</b>  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/499592777">https://zoom.us/j/499592777</a></p>	<p><b>Monday, April 6</b>            Church Office: <b>Closed until April 15</b>            Newsletter-Chris Chambers-remotely            Please continue to send information to <a href="mailto:newsletter@faithpresbyteriansusa.org">newsletter@faithpresbyteriansusa.org</a></p>

April 2020-Head Usher-Nancy Goodson - No ushers at this time

This link will take you to the Faith Presbyterian Church Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge.usa](https://www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge.usa)

**Physical Address: 56 Mountain Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513**

**Mailing Address: PO Box 2668 Blue Ridge GA 30513**

### **Information Regarding Pastor Jim Simpson and the Session Members method for coping with the current COVID19 Virus**

Each Sunday, Pastor Jim Simpson will offer a Live Worship Service via ZOOM. Each week following until April 15 there will be a live or recorded worship opportunity provided using Facebook Live or ZOOM means of delivery offered by Pastor Jim. To access the Facebook page Use the following web

address: <https://www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge/>

To access Zoom, please see Pastor Jim's instructions under "Pastor Jim's Worship Connection" on the following Worship page.

All those wishing to participate might find it helpful to download or access the Worship Bulletin from the Publications Page on the church's website.

<https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/publications-1>

This Bulletin will also be shared via an email message to the congregation.

Individuals or families who encounter extra challenges due to the current situation and who may need additional assistance are asked to be in contact with their Shepherds, or Faith Group members or the Pastor, to ascertain ways in which they can be helped and supported.

The Session prayed for our Church, Community, State, Nation and World and are sure that each and all of you will continue to join your prayers for all at this time.

From Pastor Jim Simpson (March 30, 2020):

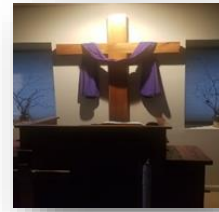
“Cessation of all in-person activities at least through April 15. As we now know all Georgia K-12 public schools are shut down until April 24, effectively, April 26, so there is a good likelihood that our current cessation will require to be extended. The Session reminds everyone to abide by all local ordinances and to observe strict physical distance.

Like me, you will be following the news and analysis of where the country and world is, in suffering from, coping with, and responding to, all the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. You will be praying for – those who are ill; the families of those who have died; the first line healthcare workers; the scientist and researchers and all called upon to lead. We do this even as we realize that the best thing is not to be together with other people – the very thing we know would bring us great comfort and encouragement.

Over the past two weeks many of you have been engaging with the range of communication and resources available online, and we are all learning as we go. We are staying in contact via phone, video call, email, ZOOM, Facebook etc. etc. We won't put anyone at risk in anyway. Please be very mindful of the Emergency Declarations that apply where you reside. The news does seem to indicate that the time of maintaining adequate physical is both working and likely

to be needed for longer. We will all need to be thinking ahead as we make plans and discover needs. Not knowing exactly how long the current uncertainties will continue, we will seek to be the church together, and in support of others in the community.”

## Wilderness LENT 2020



**Thank you to everyone who helped make yesterday's WORSHIP CONNECTION possible: Jim and Sally Crawford; Kathy Wills; Harold Wills; Grace Thomas; Charles and Melissa Johnson; Randy Borden and Harry Chambers and members of the Stewardship Team; all the Faith Elders who made announcements and monitored the Chat Room, and to all who participated in every way!**

**This Wednesday, April 1 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Lenten Study - "Good News for Wilderness People"**

**The Gospel of Matthew in words and music**

Weekly reflections on Scripture using words and music. Pastor Jim Simpson and Faith member and experienced church music director, Bruce Graham, will present and share these weekly programs. Come yourself and invite a friend!

Please come to our **LENT STUDY** access this Wednesday on Zoom: The zoom meeting will open at or just after 01:30 PM (EST) and the program will begin at 2:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/770155939>

Meeting ID: 770 155 939

Dial in numbers: +1 301 715 8592 +1 346 248 7799 +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 770 155 939

As the Lent Study program concludes we will remain together, and maybe welcome some other people for a Talkback conversation about celebrating and sharing Communion within our upcoming **Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday WORSHIP CONNECTIONS on ZOOM.** Look for a document Pastor Jim is working on with Session members called, "Resource Guide for celebrating and sharing Communion in an online Service of Worship".

**This Sunday .... April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday - WILDERNESS JOURNEY**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this Sunday of the Year are: Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:1-4—27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Scripture Readings: Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon Title: "Who is He?"

We will share the Lord's Supper during this WORSHIP CONNECTION. Look for further information and guidance over the coming days so you can be best prepared.

In this document you will find the information you will need to connect to our Sunday WORSHIP CONNECTION via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. There are some other helpful news, tips and announcements to help everyone share the experience together.

Download and install Zoom on Windows

1. Go to <https://zoom.us/download>
2. Click Download below the headline “Zoom Client for Meetings”
3. Choose “Save file” to download the Zoom installation program to your computer.
4. Double click on the downloaded program (ZoomInstaller.exe) to start the installation.

Once the program is installed you can click on Login <https://zoom.us/j/499592777> or type in the following Meeting ID number: 499 592 777

You do NOT need to create an account and you do NOT need to subscribe for an account – no need to pay any money.

The Zoom gathering begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by our worship Services at 10:30 a.m.

### GETTING CONNECTED:

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/499592777> Meeting ID: 499 592 777.  
Weekly Worship Connection Faith Presbyterian Church in Blue Ridge GA, Sunday’s,  
10:00 a.m. To connect via computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone:

To dial in using your phone, you can use any of these numbers and when asked to enter the Meeting ID use: 499 592 777. “All Are Welcome at Faith” and if you join us using your smartphone \*6 will mute your outside communication. There will be opportunities when everyone will have the opportunity to speak, we just can’t all do it at the same time!

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 499 592 777

Some helpful hints:

1. If you use a computer, an Ethernet cable the signal will be stronger than Wi-Fi.
2. If you are using Wi-Fi, find the best reception area in your home.
3. Using only 1 device in your home for the login, will get a better connection.
4. If you are able, “disable” apps or programs that may interfere with your reception. (This is not mandatory)
5. It is unlikely, but if there is a disruption from the outside remain signed in, Zoom provides a way to override the disruption and we will be able to continue.

### **Pastor Jim Simpson’s March 29 sermon: “Our Lazarus Life”**

“The story of Jesus and Lazarus is a long one, we thank Grace for reading it for us today. Maybe you will have some time on your hands this incoming week? Maybe you will be

stuck at home? One thing you could do, would be to read the story over again at home, to notice all the emotions, the twists and turns, the fears and hopes, and to rejoice in the promise of life, that Jesus brought to Lazarus and brings to us all.

Jesus hears that his good friend is ill, seriously ill. Despite the urging of the disciples Jesus puts off going to see Lazarus. Then Jesus breaks the terrible news that Lazarus is dead. This was confirmed when they reach Bethany and hear the weeping and wailing of the mourners.

Two different Greek words for “crying” are used in this story. The mourners’ weeping uses the word that describes the formal funeral behavior in that society, when paid mourners wailed continuously to alert the community to the death of one of its members.

A different word is used to describe the crying, the tears of Jesus. That word is best translated as, “bursting into tears.” Jesus’ own reaction to the death of Lazarus was spontaneous, genuine, deeply heartfelt and troubled; a shared expression of grief brought on in conversation with Mary.

These tears, this response of Jesus, expresses the love Jesus had for Martha and Mary and for Lazarus. Jesus weeps for Martha and Mary and Lazarus, Jesus weeps for them because of his love for them. And this weeping, and this love motivates Jesus to action.

[omitted for spoken sermon: *You may have heard of D.L. Moody who was a very famous preacher and evangelist. As a young man he was once called upon to preach a funeral sermon without much warning. It is said he hunted through the four gospels looking for one of Christ’s funeral sermons, but he searched in vain. What he discovered, and it is important that we note this, is that Jesus broke up every funeral he ever attended. Death could not exist where Jesus was, when death encounters Jesus, life results!*]

Jesus looked at Martha and Mary in their pain and hurt saying, “Take away the stone. Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” They did as Jesus said, they removed the stone, and there is Lazarus, alive, Lazarus was alive by God!

Jesus brings the promise of future resurrection into the present, In the presence of Jesus, death has no power. In the presence of Jesus death had no power All those years ago in the graveyard in Bethany. Today, tomorrow and always, thanks to Jesus, death has no power and neither does sin or evil – in the presence of Jesus there is life.

Is this all beyond logical explanation, surely yes! But that is not the point. The point is that we are to trust, to believe, to rejoice in the presence of life in Jesus, not as a burden, thinking somehow it depends upon us or our actions and attitudes; but as a joy - resting in the presence and promise of life in Jesus!

Aren’t we in a time when we would trust ourselves to Jesus? Aren’t we ready for Jesus to look at us directly, to look us in our tearful, fearful and fading eyes and offer us the promise of life?

Jesus speaks to you and to us all, Jesus would roll away the stones that prevent you from living and from living fully. Jesus calls out to you! Jesus says to us “Come out” “Come out and live!”

The writer of the Gospel of John doesn't care what Lazarus looked like or smelled like! For you see the great good news for us and for all is this: God was not and is not afraid of the stench!

In the same way, God is not afraid to encounter you and I in our need and sense of dislocation. The promise of our Lent and Easter faith is that God will break into the wilderness of our lives, even into the deep wilderness where we wander today, and even into the painful reality that is grief and death!

In the times that we find ourselves in today, Jesus still weeps, Jesus still weeps for all the hurting and the dying Jesus still weeps for each of us, Today, Jesus knows and feels and shares the pain of our illnesses, our hurts, even right now, Jesus cares for this terrible thing that is ravaging our world and our lives.

It has been a little amusing these past days! On several zoom calls some folks have not wanted to turn on the video on their phone or computer because they haven't combed their hair or got their make up on! It is kind of funny any of you worrying about your hair, when your own Pastor still has his normal mop of hair, this way and that.

The healing and life of Jesus comes to all, not just when we're looking our best, but when we are at our worst.

The healing and life of Jesus comes to us before we have put our face on in the morning and after we take it off at night.

The healing and life of Jesus comes to us whether or not we have shaved or showered or said our prayers!

The healing and life of Jesus just comes!

The healing and life of Jesus just comes like as we sometimes like to say in the South, like grits at the Waffle House!

The healing and life of Jesus comes to us when we are lying in hospital beds with tubes in our bodies; when we are sick, or bleeding, or in pain; when we are wracked with worry; when we see no way ahead; when we face the torment of fear and isolation or depression.

As we heard, Jesus was not squeamish about Lazarus' condition and Jesus is not squeamish about the reality of your life. Jesus' resurrection life is not delicate or sentimental. It is gristly, raw, and powerful! It is powerful enough to lift a man, a dead man, out of his rotting burial cloths and bring him back to his sisters as a new person.

There is nothing cute about the real power of Easter. And when you think about it – when we face fear and despair, worry and death, cute doesn't cut it! What we need is nothing less than the ever-living power of God.

If you are tempted to imagine that God has abandoned you, or us or this world; if you are even wondering why, oh why, all this death is being seen around our world. Remember this Lazarus didn't ask to be raised. He was already dead! It wasn't any action of his that brought

him out of the grave, but the faith of his sisters and the utter conviction of Jesus. It was in their calling out – Martha, Mary, Jesus calling out to God, that new life poured into Lazarus.

In his tomb Lazarus could do nothing himself. The tremendous, eternal, unfathomable, and renewing power of God broke open the tomb, this power with the continuing love and belief of the community, called Lazarus back to life. So it is and can be with us!

In this spiritual family, in this church, we are not expected to perform miracles on our own behalf. But as we grow in faith, in love, and in community, God will sustain each of us through one other in our strongest and weakest and worst moments.

When you and I wake from sleep tomorrow morning, we will have been given what we can call “Our Lazarus Life.” Church tradition has many stories about all the things that Lazarus went on to do with the new life he was gifted by Jesus.

And so it is for you and I, and all who trust their lives to the presence and power and love of Jesus, We are given “Our Lazarus Life” We are being given “Our Lazarus Life” “Jim Life” “Frances Life” “Debbie Life” “Harry life” “Gerrie life”.

We all receive “Our Lazarus Life” and therefore we tune our hearts, and open our hearts and turn our lives towards all that God has for us to do and be in our current circumstances, circumstances in which we see so clearly what we must do and be – that together “step by step” we will continue to serve God and all our neighbors, “Beyond the wood and stone.”

All of us, Lazarus, you and I, we are the living, breathing evidence of resurrection.

In Lazarus’ day the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus, thus putting him back in the tomb for good. In our day, there are people and forces who would denounce and diminish the life of faith which we share together with our living, loving Savior. In this day, we can see one more threat to life But hear and trust this promise, Our Loving Savior, Jesus addresses each of us now and always, calling us forth and calling us on, promising life and love. Life and love for us and for the world, The world, this world for which and in which Jesus poured out His life, that all might discover life. Life today and life eternal. Life together, Life for living, Life for loving – loving God, loving one another, loving all our neighbors. This is “Our Lazarus life” into which we have been brought, People of Faith Presbyterian Church this is “Our Lazarus life” for living! Amen.”

**Our Giving and Contributions:** The plan to enable a limited number of people to attend to the business of the church in receiving contributions and paying bills is now up and running. There is on the church website a document that describes how people can use their own bank’s online billpay system to remit contributions – you can find it here: <https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/on-line-giving> All checks should continue to be mailed to the church’s PO BOX address which is: **Faith Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 2668 Blue Ridge, GA 30513.**

In order to help make giving as simple as possible the Session approved reminding everyone of the ability to contribute to Faith Presbyterian Church through Facebook. We had previously experimented in a limited way with this system and found it worked flawlessly. Faith is already set up to receive contributions as a non-profit organization, meaning that no fee or charge is

assessed on contributions via Facebook. The result of this is that 100% of all anyone gifts to the church through Facebook comes directly into the church bank account.

### **Nomination Committee:**

Please give thoughtful prayer to the Faith members you are considering.

The Congregation's Nomination Committee introduced their Suggestion Form for the Elder Class of 2023. It is available for the church and from the church website: [Nomination Committee Form](#) A revised timetable for the Nomination process will be communicated in due course. In the meantime, nominations are still being accepted.

**At this time our next planned Discovery Class scheduled for, Sunday, March 29, 2020 will not take place.** 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.

### **New Building Gift Donation program:**

As we move closer to the opening of our new church building the Session and New Building Committee wish to keep the New Building Gift Donation list before our members and friends. This document has been updated over the past weeks to show items and gifts donated and received, and we will have another update in the near future. These gifts and items will be a great help in our move into the new building. This ongoing program allows individuals or families to consider donating some or all the cost of these identified items. The latest version through February 27, was offered as a Bulletin insert on March 1, and you can access the document online at the GIVING page on our church website:

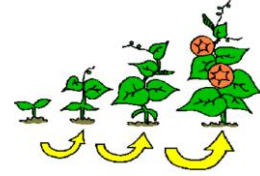
<https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/giving>

Potential donors interested in donating towards a specific item are asked, in the first instance, to contact Pastor Jim Simpson, or the two co-chairs of the New Building Committee, Jim Reich and Bill Young, to be sure that item has not yet been contributed and in order to hear more about how a specific item will add to the overall usefulness of our new building. The version of the document on the website notes the most recent update, showing gifts already received, items purchased and remaining giving opportunities.



# SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

**FAITH GROUPS-All church in-person gatherings are postponed until further notice**



**Women of Faith “For Such a Time as This” - Study of the book of Esther”**

**Update:** Our next meeting is Monday, April 13, at 1:00 via ZOOM. Then our next 2 meetings are already scheduled - April 27 and May 18 - both at 1:00. If we are still not meeting in-person, then we will meet with ZOOM. (Pray for me - figuring out this technology!) 😊

The WOF offer a study each year and support a chosen mission. This study is April through May.

**“One Anothering” Part 2 Study Group TBD Elaine Whitley-Facilitator-** will resume Wednesday,

***ONE ANOTHERING* by Rev Richard Meyer**

*One Anothering goes back to the building blocks of Christian fellowship.*

*They characterize the ways we should relate to one another within the Body of Christ.*

*The First chapter is "Fellowship with one another, Acts 2:42, fellowship is defined as life-sharing. Second Chapter is "Love OneAnother", John 13:34, love to be shared within the fellowship of Christ. **We could start Part 1 in the fall.***

*If you would be interested, please sign up and we could talk days and times when we get enough to start, about 4 people. Questions ?? Email [grew68@gmail.com](mailto:grew68@gmail.com) Call 407 712 4847 Elaine Whitley*

**Ushers** It is our prayer that ushers will be needed for April 19 and 26. If you would be willing to serve Faith in this position or would like to get more details please contact Carl Riggs at [campriggs@icloud.com](mailto:campriggs@icloud.com) or call 678-371-7191

**Make a Joyful Noise in 2020! Postponed until further notice**

If you are interested in singing in the choir, call or email Kathy Wills, MM, Director of Music at [kathycmac@gmail.com](mailto:kathycmac@gmail.com) or at 828-361-0007 for more details. Kathy Wills, our Music Director, also offers private piano and voice lessons. Please contact Kathy to discuss your interest and lesson locations.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Beyond the Wood and Stone.....Step by Step

From Lynn Mahovsky: When Joe and I were part time residents in N Georgia we visited different churches. The thing that drew us to Faith Presbyterian was the openness and friendliness of members and the presence of Faith church in the community. At every event/festival we attended we ran into Jim and members of Faith in the Faith Presbyterian “booth”. These were caring committed Christians reaching out to the community. Of course we ended up at Faith, and we are proud and grateful to be part of this dynamic congregation.

As we worshipped together last Sunday via Zoom, I realized that changing the way we communicate is not going to completely change the original relationships we all value so much. As I watched Jim and listened to his words and those of members who expressed concerns and anxieties, I “heard” things through new ears. Our attention to the needs of each other will not be lessened by our lack of in person contact; in fact it may make it stronger. I was so encouraged by that, it made the worship more impactful. I was grateful and moved by the collective and individual expressions of trust...in each other and in our Lord. He blesses wisely and abundantly, especially in times of trouble!

I am excited for the future of Faith Pres and look forward to our continued connection to each other, (in person or by alternative media), and to our community.

As introduced yesterday during WORSHIP CONNECTION you are invited to submit your story, vignette or photographs of the STEPS you have taken to make good use of your time and to reach out to support others or learn a new skill or take a STEP forward in faith. Send stories and photographs to:

Randy at [randyborden@yahoo.com](mailto:randyborden@yahoo.com)

Or Harry at [harry@harrychambers.com](mailto:harry@harrychambers.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE PLANNING TEAM

Elders, Lynn Hayes [lynnhayes18@gmail.com](mailto:lynnhayes18@gmail.com) Chris Martinez [ccjmii@etcmail.com](mailto:ccjmii@etcmail.com)

Everyone is reminded to keep in touch with your Shepherds if needs arise where you need some assistance.

Please look for regular updates as we move through the coming days and if you have needs and require some assistance please contact your Shepherd or Pastor Jim [Jim.Simpson@tds.net](mailto:Jim.Simpson@tds.net) (404) 509-5362

**Blue Ridge Businesses** please help Blue Ridge small businesses! Check the Chamber of Commerce's website to see how you can make a difference:

<https://www.blueridgemountains.com/blog/help-our-small-businesses-survive/>

**For Those Who Have Young Children or Grandchildren** - You are invited to provide their very own Children's Church lesson and activities. Simply go to [sermons4kids.com](http://sermons4kids.com). A new lesson appears each week. You will find scripture, the lesson, coloring page, and activities related to the lesson. This is the website used most of the time in our lessons at Faith. We encourage families to keep children connected to church by joining with them in prayer and learning.

## **TAKING TIME**

As we enter another week of quarantine, let me offer a few suggestions to help you with all this new free time you have available.

1. Use your time to center yourself in prayer. Perhaps begin with a few deep breaths and concentrate on your relationship with God.
2. Creativity abounds from inactivity it has been said. Try something new that you have always wanted to try or think outside the box. Luckily, we have the ability of accessing teachers for these new skills through the internet. How about picking up knitting to make those cute caps for the hospital? YouTube offers lots of workshops.
3. Remember to loosen up those limbs and get some exercise. Take a walk. Enjoy the Springtime blossoms and all the birds. Again, look to the internet for yoga or exercise classes to start your day.
4. Read a good book (s)! I don't know about you, but I have so many books I want to read! Many are dust-covered on my shelves, some have been lent to me by friends and many are on my iPad waiting for me to open!
5. Take an academic class. The Great Courses.com offer many non-credit courses in a variety of topics for a minimum price – especially if you catch their sale.
6. Revisit old friends you haven't seen or spoken to in awhile! Being at home for extended periods is a great reason to pick up that phone and make those contacts. There are several people in our church that would love to hear from you too!
7. I hate to mention the dreaded word “clean” but this a great opportunity to do that Spring cleaning you have been dying to do! Sorting through old boxes or attacking the underbelly of your bed are great goals during this time.
8. Cooking a new recipe. Being creative with the ingredients in your pantry. Looking at Pinterest for a new cuisine to try.
9. Reacquaint yourself with your partner – try something new together. Turn off that TV and play a game or take a walk.
10. Just “take the time” to DO something uplifting for yourself or those around you. We HAVE TO take it slow these days so let's take advantage of it!

One of the surprising benefits that has grown from being quarantined these days is the number of newfound friendships that have sprung up in our Faith community. Taking the time to reach out to one another has caused people to meet new people they might not have met given our ordinarily busy schedules. One person who has taken the time to do this is Patty Hampton. Patty offered to reach out to those women living alone and touch base with them on a regular basis if they so desired. Patty now has what-she-calls “seven sisters” because of this. She tells me she has learned so much from them already and has found connections that she wasn’t aware were there between them. Patty refers these new friends to their shepherds if there is a specific need that should be addressed. In addition, Shirley Copeland and she are making sure that everyone gets their Faith bulletin if they need one through the mail. Outreach, caring, and opportunity come in many forms. Patty feels that God has spoken to her during this difficult time to reach out and care for many in our church community. If you would like to be called on a regular basis by Patty, please contact her at 706-632-5502.

**Knittwitts** The yarn bin in the narthex is EMPTY! The Knittwitts knit year-round (prayer shawls, prayer squares, hats). Consider donating a skein or two of yarn -medium thickness & no pastels. Please place your donation in the yarn bin when we are able to gather.



RED CROSS CPR TRAINING - **Looking ahead to May...** a Red Cross CPR training is set for May 2 10:30am at the new fire station on Windy Hill. Cost is \$25 to be paid at the workshop. Please let Chris Martinez know if you are interested. Only 16 seats available! [ccjmii@etcmail.com](mailto:ccjmii@etcmail.com)



EASTER SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH –**Cancelled** [Lynnhayes18@gmail.com](mailto:Lynnhayes18@gmail.com)

### **Helpful information from Sylvia Goodyear**

You can make your own hand sanitizer: 2/3 cup Isopropyl alcohol 91% (rubbing alcohol)  
1/3 cup Aloe Vera gel.

**Pastor Jim Simpson’s 2021 Sabbatical:** Sabbatical leave for pastors is a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. It is an opportunity for the individual to strategically disengage from regular and normal tasks to that ministry and mission my b viewed from a new perspective because of a planned time of focus.

Someone compared the life of a minister with that of a taxi leaving an airport. It is so loaded down with passengers and suitcases and the other items that the car has a hard time even moving and is strained to the point of breaking, yet the taxi may be only a few years old. So it is with clergy. They bear the burdens, the anguish, the pain, and the hurt of their parishioners 24-7. That is 24 hours, seven days a week. As a result, many, if not all, experience to one degree or another symptoms of emotional collapse, stress related illnesses, and burnout, adversely affecting the minister’s personal, family, and parish life, and greatly diminishing his or her effectiveness and well-being. The sabbatical planning team is working to assure that Jim has a sabbatical that will bring him back rested, re-energized, and ready to resume his ministry here at Faith.

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

**Healthcare Workers** The call has gone out that masks were needed for health care workers and those who may be at higher risks for contracting the virus. There are numerous patterns on-line, e.i., <https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask>. Please consider participating in this effort to help “level the curve”. Even if you do not sew, there are many things related to the process of making the masks through which you may be involved in this project. If you have questions, email me at [marthaheffnerf2@gmail.com](mailto:marthaheffnerf2@gmail.com) (be sure to include 2 F s).

**Volunteers needed at Blue Ridge Assisted Living**-Postponed until further notice. Faith has volunteers calling Bingo on Wednesday afternoon.

- ✚ May our prayers be our mission and an outreach to all: today and tomorrow, for those near and far?
- ✚ The Red Cross has asked that we still provide a location for a blood drive as scheduled on April 3. No Faith volunteers are required as the Red Cross staff will handle all aspects of the drive. The Red Cross has implemented stringent precautions for donor sites and donors. As of today, there are 13 signed up to donate at our site.
- ✚ Snack-in-a-Backpack is able to distribute to children in conjunction with the school system lunch delivery. Packers (no more than 10 for spacing) and Thursday delivery drivers to the schools are on-going and may evolve as time progresses. If you are not on the regular volunteer list but could help out during this time, please email Debby Beck at [backpackfannin@gmail.com](mailto:backpackfannin@gmail.com).
- ✚ Family Connection Food Bank is serving families via a drive thru method.
- ✚ The April 25th Trout Festival has been postponed until July 25th.
- ✚ Mission and Outreach team members will continue to provide welcome/gift bags for Pink House and Second Wind as needed.

Please share with local friends and family. **Currently remains on the Calendar for April 3 11:00-4:00** Donors can sign up for an appointment time at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) Volunteers needed—sign-up sheet in Gathering room.

**“You can still go out and give blood. We’re worried about potential blood shortages in the future. Social distancing does not have to mean social disengagement.”**

U.S. Surgeon General



**One of the most important things you can do to ensure we don’t have another health care crisis on top of Coronavirus is make an appointment to donate.**

Right now, the American Red Cross has an ongoing critical need for blood product donations as uncertainties remain during this coronavirus pandemic. Blood drives continue to be canceled at an alarming rate and patients need a sufficient blood supply

throughout the many weeks of this crisis and beyond. Healthy individuals are needed to schedule an appointment to give in the days and weeks ahead to help patients counting on lifesaving **blood, platelets** or **AB Elite plasma**.

### Special Olympics Track and Field-Cancelled

Hello Volunteers, Special Olympics GA has asked for all activities involving athletes to be cancelled until at least March 31st due to the Covid-19/Coronavirus. After discussing this with our FCSO leadership committee, **we have decided to cancel our April 3rd event.**

**Where will you fit in? Meeting postponed until further notice** If you have any questions or would like to be a liaison or coordinator for one of our current Missions as listed, please contact either Randy Griggs or myself.

Good Samaritan's	Food Bank Coordinate Volunteers	BR Asst Living Wednesday Bingo	Coordinate Volunteers Red Cross Blood Drives	TroutFest Rivers Alive Booth
Arts-in-the-Park	Church Garden	Summer Meals	Snack-in-a- Backpack	Habitat for Humanity
Thornwell Home	Halloween	Light-up BR Parade Float	Crisis Center Gift Donations	Pruitt Christmas Gift Donations
Thanksgiving Baskets	Visitor Welcome Bags	<b>WHERE WILL</b>	<b>YOU FIT IN?</b>	



**Guess Who?** We are going to put this project to the side until we can get together again. Thanks for playing. Please resubmit your photo when we can enjoy the game in-person!

## ADMINISTRATION

**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.

### 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. Go to this page and scroll down until you find the Directory

<https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/publications-1> Password is: Faith

**Church Newsletter and Bulletin** Please - Email articles and photos for the newsletter to [newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org) by 10 AM on Monday for publishing in that day's Faith Happenings. For the newsletter, type "**For Newsletter**" into the email subject line. If

you want something in the Bulletin, type “**For Bulletin**” in the subject line. We welcome articles and photos that directly relate to church activities and to events and people involving the charities that we actively support.

### **The Church email system new email addresses are here!**

Our new domain name is the same as the church website

[www.faithpresbyterianusa.org](http://www.faithpresbyterianusa.org) This means we will all have to get used to seeing new email addresses using the church address: “[@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:@faithpresbyterianusa.org)” (This email address is available to us because this is our church website “domain name” over which we have exclusive rights!) In the transition time both current and new email addresses will be in use to help keep everyone in contact and avoid any break in communication. New addresses now in use include:

For the general church office: [office@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:office@faithpresbyterianusa.org)

For items for the newsletter: [newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org](mailto:newsletter@faithpresbyterianusa.org)

**Faith’s Communication Notices can be found on our Email, Facebook Page and ZOOM for information on upcoming events.**

[www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge.usa](https://www.facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianBlueRidge.usa)

**WOOD AND STONE COMMITTEE: (New Building and Capital Campaign Committees)**



By the end of last week, activity at the church was greatly increased. Door frames and doors were 90% installed. The suspended ceiling grid was 100% installed, electricians installing lights in ceiling grid and trim carpenters were beginning to install wainscoting. We are all grateful for God’s blessings and his help in keeping all the workers healthy and productive. A clear dry spell this week should mean visual changes to the exterior. So, keep praying, maintain your social distance and keep your fingers crossed that the weather cooperates.

The Design committee is finalizing specific colors. The chandeliers and chairs have been ordered. Candy Frank, Secretary

**New Building Committee:** Bruce Burn, Candy Frank, Tim Huffstetler, Jim Reich, Carl Riggs, Barbara Schmus, Bill Young, Catherine Branch, Rita Oberle, Harold Wills, Mike Roberts

**Capital Campaign Committee:** Janeese Glascock, Bill Green, Bill and Carol Furtwengler, Grace Thomas, Rick Borden, Carl Riggs, Linda Ray, Catherine Branch

**Reverend Jim Simpson** serves, Ex-officio, both committee

**We ask for your continuing prayers for wisdom and guidance. Check out our plan drawings, decorator boards, and monument (main sign) drawing in the gathering room.**

Our hardworking sub committees focused on specific needs of our new facility. The following is a list of those subcommittees and their members. Several are looking to add members so please review these and see where you could contribute. Contact the chair of the subcommittee to join open subcommittees. The remaining subcommittees are much farther down the road having been working for months – and while they do not need more members are always open to input.

### **Open Sub Committees:**

*Landscaping:* **Sally Crawford, Chair** (Peggy Reich, Terri Charron, Jane Giddens, Owen Reich, horticulturist, gratis consult) Open to add members with this background.

**shcrawford52@gmail.com** They will be planting the parking islands first.

*Audio/Video/Chancel Lighting/Hearing Assist (AVL).* **Harold Wills, Chair.** Jim Crawford, Garrett Frank, Bruce Graham, Jim Simpson. Open to add members with this background. The Building Committee approved hiring a company to design and install sound equipment for the new church.

*Safety and Security* **Harold Willis, Chair.** Jim Reich, John Silva, Thom Potito, Bill Hecker, Jim Simpson Open to add members with this background.

*Church Signage:* **Catherine Branch, Chair** (Bill Young) Open to add members with this background.

*Office Furnishing/Storage:* **Janice Cary, Chair** (Peggy Reich, Brenda Scruggs, Nancy Goodson) Open to add members with this background.

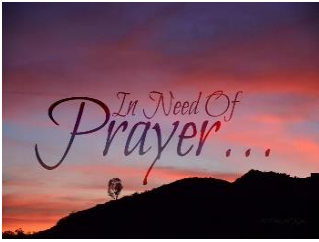
*Cabinetry* **Bill Young, Chair** Open to add members with this background.

### **Existing Sub Committees:**

*Interior/Exterior Design:* **Barbara Schmus, Chair** (Debbie Peterson, Denise Burn, Randy Borden) complete but open to input and comments

*Kitchen:* **Peggy Reich, Chair** (Barbara Schmus, Tim Huffstetler, Danny Mellman, restaurateur, gratis consult) complete but open to input and comments.





During this time of Social-Distancing 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
Kim King		We lift up Kim in prayer as she has outpatient surgery this Wednesday (April 1) at Union General Hospital.
Michelle (a friend of Faith)	Debbie Peterson	Please pray for Michelle, a friend of Faith, who has been lifeflighted to Erlanger with pneumonia and sepsis. Our prayers for her recovery is greatly appreciated.
Charles and Melissa Johnson		It was great to have the Johnsons, our mission partners, now home from Zambia, as part of Worship Connection on 3/29. Pray for them as they remain in self-isolation and for the people with whom they work in Lundazi.
Arthur Senecal (father of June Stanford's daughter-in-law)	June Stanford	Praise update: Arthur Senecal, the father of June's daughter-in-law, is home and recovering from his recent heart attack. Our prayers continue to be appreciated.
Randy Solt's Father	Randy Solt	Praise Update: Randy Solt's Dad has returned home with him from Florida and is recovering from a recent heart procedure. Our prayers are greatly appreciated.
Mark McLain		Please lift up Mark McLain in prayer as he makes a plan for future surgery after getting confirmed prostate biopsy results.
My family	Sarah Whitehead	Prayers for my family to continue healing
Matt Wolverington (Son of Linda & Bruce Graham)	Linda Graham	Please pray for my son Matt Wolvington in Longmont, CO, he was discharged from hospital - back with family but still on oxygen - he still needs our prayers.
Josh Morris & his fiancée, Cara	Patty Morris	Prayers for Josh's fiancée, Cara, who is furloughed from her job. Their wedding is on hold.
Sarah Graham (Linda & Bruce Graham's daughter-in-law)	Bruce Graham	Pray for our daughter-in-law, Sarah Graham, who is on the front lines at Children's Hospital of Atlanta.
Suzanne McWay		Prayers for Suzanne as she continues to deal with pain and mobility issues from her recent knee surgery; praying that additional PT alleviates the need for additional surgery.
Chris Smith (Son of Catherine Branch)	Catherine Branch	Prayers for my son, Chris Smith, who is working in Atlanta and is exposed daily to a large number of people.
Juliana Hopkins (friend of the Heckers in FL.)	Karen Hecker	Please pray for friend and neighbor, Juliana Hopkins, who was just released from the hospital with COVID-19. Now quarantined for 14 days.

McKay Martin (Christina Hermetz's half-sister)	Chris Martinez	Please pray for Christina Hermetz's half-sister, McKay Martin. She lives in Atlanta and has been diagnosed with COVID-19, her condition continues to improve in quarantine.
Lost jobs		We pray for those people with family members in Seattle, New York City, and those in high risk areas.
Graduates/family celebrations		Our prayers for all whose life events have been interrupted.
Andrea Kelley (daughter of June Stanford)	June Stanford	Our prayers for June's daughter, Andrea Kelley, who lives in France and is on lockdown that may be extended for 2 months.
Mary Thompson (Connie Griggs' Aunt)	Connie Griggs	Please pray for my Aunt Mary; she has completed cancer treatment with no improvements and may receive three more treatments.
Betina (Melissa Saxon's sister)	Harold Wills	Prayers for Melissa Saxon's sister, Betina, who is a lab tech on the front lines.
A Friend of Lynn's	Lynn Hayes	Prayers for a friend whose son with PTSD committed suicide.
Gerrie & Hervey Jones		Gerrie Jones was discharged from hospital with oxygen. Pray that she recovers her full strength. Our prayers are greatly appreciated.
Ann Rand		Pray for Ann who returned to Charlottesville after enjoying a week at home recently. The temporary address for Ann Rand is: 2600 Barracks Rd., Apt. 291, Charlottesville, VA 22901; 434-249-2588 cell.
Fidelia Salley and her two brothers and family		Fidelia Salley's mother, Doris Tucker, died 3/16 in hospital in Florida, following complications related to her pacemaker surgery. Bob and Fidelia had been in Florida with her and just returned home when they received this news and returned to Florida.
Gene Shillcutt		Gene is home and recovering from his recent bypass surgery; our prayers continue to be appreciated.
Bill Fitch	Lynda Fitch	Praise Update: Lynda's brother-in-law; Bill Fitch is doing better. He was recently hospitalized in Forsyth Co. with a severe staph infected abscess in his neck and has undergone surgery, but is now back home.
Jane Graves		We lift up Jane Graves in prayer as she has hospital tests in Cartersville over the next 2-3 weeks. Our prayers for good test results are greatly appreciated.
Gwynne Raynor (Kathy Cardwell Wills' niece)		Gwynne Raynor, the niece of Kathy Cardwell Wills, is currently at the Mayo clinic undergoing cancer tests. Our prayers for Gwynne and good test results are greatly appreciated.
Maggie March		Please continue to pray for Maggie - she has been able to reduce medication and is feeling more like herself again. Pray for wisdom for her medical team and pray that Maggie will receive the strength she needs.
Bud Wheatley		Please continue prayers for Bud as he undergoes chemotherapy. Our prayers are greatly appreciated.

Judy Evans		Please pray for relief and healing for Judy Evans as she is treated for painful venous insufficiency in her lower legs.
Allie Willis		Please pray for Allie as she faces ongoing health challenges.
Virginia McPhee		Virginia continues to greatly appreciate our prayers.
Peggy Zinsli		Continued prayers for healing from her knee surgery and successful rehab.
Nance Huish		Please keep Nance lifted up in your prayers as she continues to face her physical challenges.

## 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.** 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 2020** (adopted by the Session at the Session Retreat, November 2019):

- 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. Expand effective communication to include appropriate use of technology.
- Transition to our new church facility.
- Prepare and launch our mortgage reduction campaign. Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) in support of our ongoing life and witness.
- Recruit additional staff member to aid our pastor in pastoral care/program duties.