



God Cares About Everybody

At our Quarterly Church Conference on January 30, 2022, FBCP voted unanimously to adopt an inclusivity statement, which will be included in our church covenant. This statement is the result of many months of prayer and conversation.

Just before the church conference, Pastor Jennifer Rygg preached a sermon on Luke 4:14-30, describing the purpose and hope in adopting this statement, which included the following:

Friends, if we want to be a community based on the teachings of Jesus, then we too must believe and proclaim and live this good news – the good news that God cares about everybody.

- God cares for those who feel forgotten.
- God cares for those who, like the widow at Zarephath, do not know how they are going to feed their children tomorrow.
- God cares for those who, like Naaman, are suffering from a debilitating illness and are desperate for a cure.
- God cares for those who do not know or do not follow God.
- God cares for those who want to follow God but have been told by God's followers that they are somehow not good enough.
- God cares for those who feel lost, broken, and alone.
- God cares for those who do not check all the boxes of what we think good Christians are supposed to do and be.
- God cares about everybody.

--Excerpt from sermon by Jennifer Rygg at FBCP on 1/30/22

We are a community of believers in the one true, living God, who is manifested as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We strive to welcome all people to join us on our faith journey. Our desire is to embody the inclusive ministry of Jesus Christ, recognizing that all people are created in the image of God and that church attendance, participation, membership, and leadership are open to all, without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, education, economic circumstances, marital or family status, or any other distinctions of society. We endeavor to be a welcoming and affirming community of grace for all people, loving our neighbors because God first loved us.



The Gift of Respite



It is no secret that the past two years have taken a toll on all of us. Dealing with a global pandemic is not for the faint of heart. The health concerns, logistical challenges of quarantine, technological challenges of meeting virtually, and the seemingly endless need to monitor data and adjust plans accordingly have been – to say the least – overwhelming.

In the midst of these challenges, I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement of this church family. I am thankful for your willingness to follow COVID precautions, your grace with me when I have been overwhelmed, and your faithfulness in giving and serving our church and community.

Last fall, our deacon chair, Suzanne Morse, came to me with the suggestion that we participate in Respite for Revs, an initiative of five partner organizations designed to offer support for clergy. The five organizations include Baptist Women in Ministry, Passport, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, Baptist News Global, and Good Faith Media.

Leaders from these organizations offered the following observations and response:

Clergy are struggling. They're over-extended. They're anxious. Many are reaching the point of burnout, and some have already walked away from local church leadership due to the overwhelming challenges they've faced. Additional time away for rest and renewal is vital for the health of clergy and congregations.

These observations and convictions are at the heart of a new initiative: **#RespiteforRevs**. Respite for Revs is based on a simple appeal to local churches: provide your minister an extra week off from preaching or teaching, and a staff member from one of the five organizations will preach or teach in their place at no cost to the congregation.

Excerpt from "Respite for Revs Initiative to Support Local Clergy"
Good Faith Media | September 29, 2021

<https://goodfaithmedia.org/respite-for-revs-initiative-to-support-local-church-clergy/>

With Suzanne's encouragement, I agreed to accept this generous offer. My family and I had already planned a vacation for early February, so we decided to extend our time away from church, in order to receive this gift of respite.

For the first two Sundays of February, FBCP will welcome two guest preachers, Rev. Tim Willis on Feb 6 and Rev. Meredith Stone on Feb 13. Meredith is coming to Pendleton as part of the Respite for Revs initiative. I am grateful to both of them, and I know you will be blessed by their words and their presence. I look forward to worshipping with you again in a few weeks.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jennifer Rygg
1/31/21



Guest Preachers Help Fulfill the Gift of Respite

Guest Preacher for Feb 6

Rev. Tim Willis

Tim retired at the end of 2017 after 43 yrs of ministry which included 31 as a campus minister and 12 as an intentional interim and chaplain. He and his wife have lived in Clemson for 36 yrs. They have a son, David, in Marshall, NC and their oldest son, John, passed away in 2018. He has been the voice of Tiger Band for 28 yrs. He volunteers with FAVOR (Faces and Voices of Recovery) of the Upstate as a family recovery coach and co-facilitator of a monthly grief group. He also works part time as a grief coach for Heritage Health Cares.



Guest Preacher for Feb 13

Rev. Meredith Stone



Meredith currently serves as the executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, a role she has held since August 2020. Previously, she served as Associate Dean for Academics and Assistant Professor of Scripture and Ministry at Logsdon Seminary of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX. She has served in pastoral roles in Texas congregations and as Women in Ministry Specialist for Texas Baptists. She has also written numerous publications on women in ministry. Meredith is a Texas native and lives in Abilene with her husband and two daughters.

Meals are Off the Table for Now

Church Council made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend all meals at church due to the high level of community transmission of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. For the time being, we will **not** have Wednesday night supper, Sunday morning coffee/tea, or any other meals at church. We will continue meeting in person with masks required. Since eating and drinking requires removing masks, Church Council feels it is best that we not eat/drink in groups at church for the time being. We will continue to monitor the data to determine when the current COVID surge has decreased to the point that we feel comfortable resuming meals at church.

Keenagers

Due to COVID concerns, Keenagers has decided to cancel the Feb 14 meeting. Hopefully, things will settle down and we'll see everyone on Mar 14 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Stay safe!

Camp Prism

Camp Prism for children completing grades 3 through 6 will be July 12 - 15 at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC. The camp theme for 2022 is **The Power of our Beginnings** and will explore the creation story. Activities will include Bible study, worship, games, adventure activities (zip line, rock climbing, etc.), swimming, campfires, and more. The camp is organized and led by a team of ministers from partner churches, mostly in upstate SC (First Baptist Pendleton, First Baptist Greenwood, First Baptist Greenville, Trinity Baptist in Seneca, Augusta Heights Baptist in Greenville, and Park Road Baptist in Charlotte). We are still working on details regarding cost, but the church will offset part of the cost for all campers and provide need-based scholarships. We are committed to helping every child go to camp who would like to go! If your child is currently in grades 3 through 6 and is interested in attending camp this summer, please contact **Jane Massey** at (864) 940-3156 or jmassey316@gmail.com.

*Thank
you*

Thank you to everyone who has visited and brought meals to Amelia Kaylor over the past few months. Amelia will be moving to Clemson Heritage Memory Care this week, and would appreciate your continued prayers for her peace, and to erase any anxiety or fear in her new home.



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DEACONS FLOCKS
 for 2021 - 2022

Flock 01: A - Be	Wayne Patterson	(864) 710-8239
Flock 02: Bo - Cal	Bruce Blackmon	(864) 653-0228
Flock 03: Cap - Da	Randy Strickland	(864) 360-6071
Flock 04: De - Fa	Anna Leavitt	(864) 430-1814
Flock 05: Fi - Ha	Jane Massey	(864) 940-3156
Flock 06: He - J	Kim Burgess	(864) 940-6902
Flock 07: K - Me	Jan McCracken	(864) 934-4574
Flock 08: Mi - N	Jim Davis	(864) 207-0656
Flock 09: P - R	Pam Willoughby	(864) 940-5470
Flock 10: S - Ta	Skip Still	(864) 903-1576
Flock 11: Th - Y	Max Loyd	(864) 654-2399
Deacons & Spouses	Suzanne Morse	(864) 643-9909

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00 am Coffee, Tea, & Conversation in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

We hope you can join us for in-person worship, but if you can't come or aren't ready to attend in person, worship will also be on Facebook Live using our live streaming system.

visit our website
fbcpendleton.org

PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Pastor Jennifer Rygg
864-760-7135

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