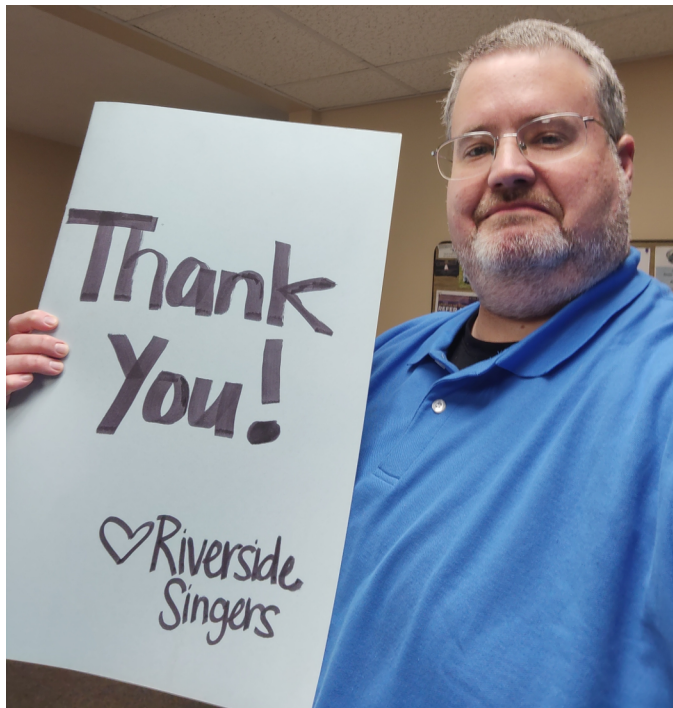




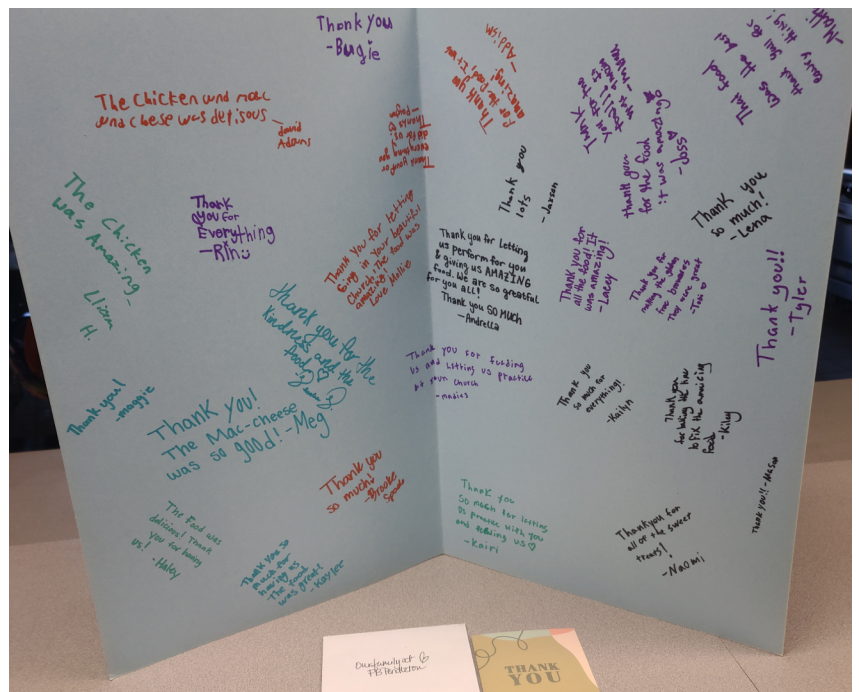
Riverside Singers say "Thank You"

On March 30, we hosted 40 eighth graders and chaperons from the Riverside Singers at Riverside Middle School for lunch. They then sang for our Keenagers and Senior Fellowship before departing for their choral competition that afternoon. Today we received a rather large thank you! Signed by the singers, the card makes frequent mention of the delicious food - with multiple mentions of the fried chicken, mac & cheese, sweet treats, and even the gluten-free brownies. One of the students summed it up this way: "Thank you for letting us sing in your beautiful church! The food was amazing!"



Their teacher and director, **Kayla Williams**, wrote "FB Pendleton Friends, we are so grateful for your hospitality and love shown to us as we prepared for our competition! The food was so delicious and enjoyed by all. What gracious hosts you were! We hope this begins a wonderful partnership! Thank you so very much! Love, Riverside Singers."

It was truly our pleasure and a blessing to our church to be able to build relationships with these students. The Riverside Singers Spring Concert will be Monday, May 15 from 6-7 pm at Pendleton High School. They will be accompanied by our own Minister of Music & Youth, **Chris Cottingham**. We hope to have a good crew of supporters from FBC Pendleton in the audience!



Preparing for the Pastor's Renewal Leave



As we turn another page on the calendar this week and begin a new month (how can it already be May?!) I am reminded yet again of how quickly time seems to pass. I have always heard that time goes by faster as you grow older, and I have certainly found this to be true. I find it difficult to believe that our boys are now 9 and 6 years old! As this school year comes to an end, our family is preparing to embark on a new adventure for us. I will be taking a renewal leave from June 5 through August 13.

I am deeply grateful that our church's personnel policy includes this type of leave, which is a tremendous gift. According to our policy, full-time ministers may request renewal leave after 5 years of service. For various reasons, I have not felt that the time has been right for me to take a renewal leave until this year. I am greatly appreciative to the personnel committee and deacon council who have approved my requested leave and have been in conversation over

the past several months to make plans for the church. My time away includes 8 weeks of renewal leave and 2 weeks of annual (vacation) leave. As we prepare for this summer, I'd like to offer answers to a few questions you may have.

What is a Renewal Leave? A pastoral renewal leave is time away from the regular responsibilities of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and church leadership in order to strengthen and renew one's personal connection with God.

What will you be doing during this Renewal Leave? I have chosen the theme, Restoring Balance in Spirit, Mind, Body, and Relationships and the Scripture passage, Mark 12:29-31 to guide my renewal leave. Jesus teaches us that these two commandments are the most important, yet sometimes, we can neglect what is most important because we are busy doing other good and important work. While I find pastoral ministry to be deeply fulfilling, I recognize ways in which this work takes a toll on my family and on my own spirit and energy, especially during the uncertainty and changes of the COVID pandemic over the past few years. I plan to use this renewal leave to restore balance in my spiritual life, in my intellectual pursuits and learning, in my physical well-being, as well as in my relationships. Through various opportunities, as well as through unstructured time to read, rest, pray, and play, I hope to live more deeply into these two Greatest Commandments.

June: I will spend a week on a personal spiritual retreat at Mepkin Abbey (a Trappist monastery), travel to visit family and friends out of state, and attend the annual General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

July: I will spend a week volunteering with Cub Scout Day Camp (which the boys will also attend) and our family will spend some time at Beside Still Waters, a retreat center for ministers and their families.

August: The boys will start 1st and 4th grade, and I will prepare for returning to the rhythms of pastoral ministry.

What will the church do? The deacons have arranged for Pastor Dan Vincent to serve as our Visiting Pastor from June 11 – August 13. Pastor Dan is familiar with our congregation; he served as Interim Pastor in 2016-2017. This summer, Pastor Dan will preach on Sundays, lead Wednesday night Bible study (with the exception of June 7, which will be deacon-led), and be available for other pastoral needs as they arise.

Thank you, FBC Pendleton, for being a church who recognizes the value of renewal leave. I am grateful to serve alongside you. A congregation benefits from the spiritual strength of their pastor, and I believe that the opportunity to restore balance will renew my strength and spirit in ways that will be deeply beneficial to both me and to our church. I look forward to our journey together, rooted in faith, growing in love.

With Grace, Peace, & Joy,
Pastor Jennifer M. Rygg
May 1, 2023

The most important [commandment] is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31 (CEB)



Keenagers and Senior Fellowship

Keenagers and Senior Fellowship will meet Monday, May 8 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall and will enjoy fellowship, entertainment by **Joanna Croker**, and lunch. Please let Evelyn Simpson (864-364-4670) know if you will attend so we prepare enough food for lunch. Thanks.

Reflections Daily Devotionals

Copies of the most recent issue of Reflections daily devotionals, with readings for May through August, are available on the table outside the church office. If you need a copy mailed to you, please call the church office (864-646-3913).

Graduate Recognition

Each year, we recognize those from our church family who are graduating from high school or college programs. If you know of a 2023 graduate who would like to be included in this year's graduate recognition, please contact the church office.

PASSPORT Youth Camp

We have five middle and high school students participating in Youth camp at Passport this year: **Cheyenne Posey, Beth Brewer, Missy Cotten, Shayla Henderson, and Tillman Cantrell**. Camp will be at Converse College this year from June 26 - July 1. Please begin praying for each of these students now, that it will be a fruitful, Spirit-filled week. (And also pray for **Aniya Webb** and **Nick Julian**, who are not able to go this year!)

In addition to your prayer support, consider writing notes to these students by name. If you want to write a note of encouragement to be delivered to them *during* the week of camp, please get that note to **Chris Cottingham** anytime between now and June 25.

We also continue to need financial support. Thanks to your generous giving, we have already raised \$1,000 for camp. We still need about \$2,000 more! Donate in support of our youth group as a whole here (go to fbcpendleton.org and click **GIVE NOW** and select "Passport Youth Camp") or contact Chris to give individual scholarships.

Camp is a significant investment, but a very worthwhile one. Over the years our students have consistently cited Passport as among their favorite memories and most formative moments. Each day of camp, our students are engaged in Bible study, worship, and several hours of mission work, activities that impact the community and the student. It is camping with a mission that is Christ-centered, helping students connect their faith to their thoughts, words, and actions. Passport is also inclusive of all people as children of God, and affirms that God's call to ministry is open to women and men, giving us an opportunity to camp what we believe.

Thank you for all your love and support for our students.





First Baptist Church of Pendleton

351 South Broad Street
 PO Box 187
 Pendleton, SC 29670

fbcpendleton.org
 (864) 646-3913



Deacons for the 2022-2023 Church Year

Flock 01: A - Bo	Wayne Patterson	(864) 710-8239
Flock 02: Br - Ca	Bruce Blackmon	(864) 653-0228
Flock 03: Ch - Dob	Randy Strickland	(864) 360-6071
Flock 04: Dov - Ha	Anna Leavitt	(864) 430-1814
Flock 05: He - Ke	Rick Massey	(864) 940-3515
Flock 06: Ko - Mi	Suzanne Morse	(864) 643-9909
Flock 07: Mo - Ro	Jim Davis	(864) 207-0656
Flock 08: Ry - Ta	Pam Willoughby	(864) 940-5470
Flock 09: Th - W	Dave Alverson	(864) 617-2449
Deacons & Spouses	Kim Burgess	(864) 940-6902

**As we aspire to keep Jesus at the center of our lives,
 we are Rooted in Faith, and Growing in Love.
 We endeavor to be a welcoming and affirming
 community of grace for all people, loving our
 neighbors because God first loved us.**

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 aren't able to attend in person, you can worship on Facebook through our live streaming system.
 visit our website
fbcpendleton.org

PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Pastor Jennifer Rygg
864-760-7135

The Newsletter
 Published every two weeks.
 ©2023 First Baptist Church of Pendleton

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jennifer Rygg · jennifer@fbcpendleton.org · mobile (864) 760-7135
Rev. Chris Cottingham · chris@fbcpendleton.org · mobile (864) 420-6221
Kiley Daniel · children@fbcpendleton.org · mobile (317) 627-0257
Richard Reynolds Huss · organist@fbcpendleton.org · (864) 646-3913
Church Office / Joseph Reed · office@fbcpendleton.org · (864) 646-3913
Becky Westmoreland · accounting@fbcpendleton.org · (864) 646-3913

CHURCH OFFICE
 (864) 646-3913