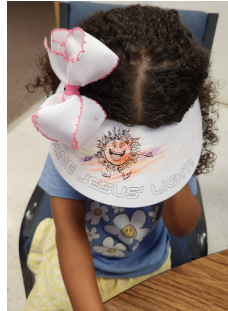


VBS: Stellar -- Mission Success!

At Stellar Wednesdays, our long journey through space has touched back down to Earth after studying how to **Shine Jesus's Light** each Wednesday night. We played games with the youth group, made crafts, danced, and met five Bible Buddies who taught us how we can shine the light of Jesus when we are sad, when people need help, when good things happen, when life feels dark, and when people don't get along. Mission Success!



Ice Cream Social

On Wednesday, Aug 16, we thanked Pastor Dan for being our Visiting Pastor, welcomed back Pastor Jennifer and family, and enjoyed an Ice Cream Social provided by the Deacons.



Back to School Sunday

Sunday, Aug 20 was Back to School Sunday. Children and Youth brought their backpacks to worship and received a blessing and a backpack tag. Afterward, with their families, they enjoyed a pizza lunch.



That Other Point of View Or, How I Spent My Renewal Leave

Last week, I returned to church after ten weeks of renewal leave. The time away was truly restful and replenishing in just the ways that I needed for it to be. I am deeply grateful for our church's policies and leadership which allowed me to enjoy such a meaningful respite. I have been enjoying reconnecting as a church family.



One of the books I used during my renewal leave is a collection of Devotional Classics, which included this excerpt from the writings of C.S. Lewis:

"The real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in (emphasis mine). And so on, all day. Standing back from all your natural fussings and frettings; coming in out of the wind." (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

Renewal leave offered me an extended opportunity to "come in out of the wind." For ten weeks, I was able to step aside from the "fussings and frettings" of church life in order to focus more fully on listening to that other voice, God's voice.

These weeks offered opportunities for different rhythms and routines, which I experienced in a variety of locations and through various activities, including

- a week of retreat at Mepkin Abby, a Trappist monastery, where I chanted psalms with the monks (once at 4 am!), ate vegetarian meals in silence, walked a labyrinth made of wildflowers, sat by the Cooper River, and wandered the beautiful grounds
- several mornings at The Potter's Place, a retreat center in Central, SC, where I spent time reading and reflecting in the prayer cabins as well as outdoors in the sun
- visiting churches as a family and worshipping together in the same pew
- visiting family and friends in North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida
- attending the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's General Assembly in Atlanta and leading communion alongside our partner missionary, Rick Burnette
- volunteering at Cub Scout Camp at Sadlers Creek State Park
- working on some projects around the house (we can now walk through the utility room!)
- spending 10 days at Beside Still Waters, a program offering retreat for ministers and their families on the Gulf Coast (photo, top right)
- visiting Immokalee and learning more about the work of Cultivate Abundance in providing food for migrant farmworkers and their families (photo, top left)

It was a full and blessed summer, indeed! Now that I have returned to the regular rhythms of church life, I hope that "that other point of view" will continue to impact my work as well as my own spiritual life.

Again, THANK YOU, FBC Pendleton for this meaningful and restful experience.

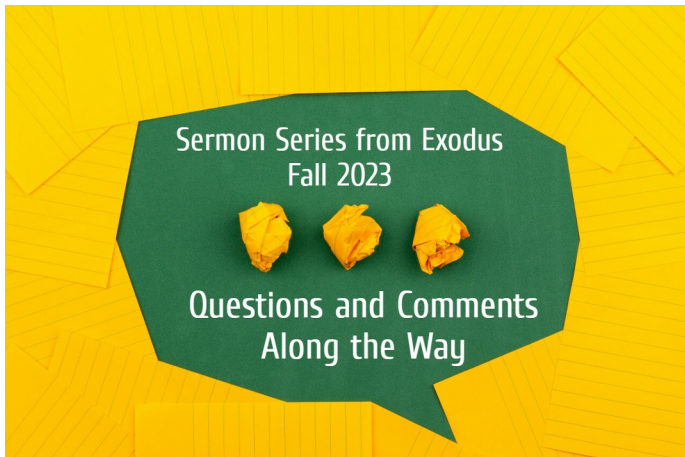
Pastor Jennifer Rygg, 8/21/23



Combined Choirs Music and Worship on Aug 27

This week, members of the FBC Pendleton Sanctuary Choir are collaborating with the choirs of **Trinity Baptist Church** in Seneca (a sister CBF church), **St. Mark's United Methodist Church** in Seneca, and **Fort Hill Presbyterian Church** in Clemson. You are invited to join the combined choirs **Sunday, Aug 27** for music and worship. The service will be at **4 pm** at Trinity Baptist Church, 504 S Oak St, Seneca, SC 29678. All are welcome!

Questions and Comments Along the Way



Fall Sermon Series from Exodus begins Aug 27

From enslaved people hiding their babies to a free people on the cusp of the Promised Land, God's people can rely on God's presence. Through the stories of Exodus, we will consider some of the questions, instructions, and comments that arise throughout the story. Each week's sermon title is a phrase spoken by someone in that week's text: God, Moses, or another character. May these questions and comments guide us into a deeper understanding of what it means to live as God's people.

Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus

New Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study begins Sep 6

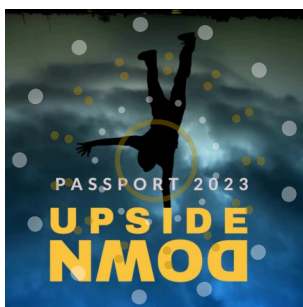
"Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus" calls us back to the central focus of our Christian faith, the Risen and Living Jesus! Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Room 306 and on Zoom with Pastor Jennifer as we seek to grow in deeper faithfulness and be transformed individually and corporately while we co-labor with God to transform the world.



A Final PASSPORT Memory

Five Youth and two adult chaperones from First Baptist Church of Pendleton attended PASSPORT camp from Jun 26-30 at Converse University in Spartanburg. Here is a reflection from one of the adults.

When I think about what was most meaningful for me at Passport, the words "fresh perspective" come to mind. In the Adult Bible Study sessions, I received a fresh perspective of the Scriptures from listening to other chaperones' interpretation and application of the Bible passages. Interacting with these chaperones from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia, I also gained a fresh perspective of how faith influences, impacts, and changes their lives. Finally, and very importantly, I have a fresh perspective of the character and integrity of the Youth at First Baptist Church of Pendleton. They willingly and without complaining gave up their cell phones for the week to honor Passport's digital sabbath. They arrived at meetings and meals on time and were generous, caring, and respectful of each other and of Chris and me. I am thankful to FBCP for giving me the opportunity to find a fresh perspective at Passport. It was refreshing! -- **Becky Milam**





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"Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus"
Wednesdays starting Sep 6



Deacons for the 2023-2024 Church Year

Flock 01: A - Bra	Kim Burgess	(864) 940-6902
Flock 02: Bre - Cl	Bruce Blackmon	(864) 653-0228
Flock 03: Co - Fa	Randy Strickland	(864) 360-6071
Flock 04: Fi - Ho	Dave Alverson	(864) 617-2449
Flock 05: Hu - Mc	Rick Massey	(864) 940-3515
Flock 06: Me - Pe	Jan McCracken	(864) 934-4574
Flock 07: Po - Tab	Shelby Quattlebaum	(864) 934-6086
Flock 08: Tay - Z	Warren Willoughby	(864) 940-5471
Deacons & Spouses	Wayne Patterson	(864) 710-8239

**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.
 find worship posts on our website
fbcpendleton.org

PASTORAL EMERGENCY
Rev. Jennifer McClung Rygg
864-760-7135

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